

July 20 1995

Thursday October 24 1996

Abu Dhabi D 0.50	Greenland D 400	Norway N 10
Albania L 200	Hong Kong HK 2.25	Oman O 1.00
Andorra A 160	Indonesia I 130	Pakistan P 70
Australia AU 30	Ireland I 100	Pakistan P 70
Austria A 130	India IN 50	Poland P 100
Bahrain B 1.00	Iran IR 100	Portugal P 200
Belgium B 100	Italy I 100	Qatar Q 8.50
Canada C 1.50	Japan J 100	Russia R 20
Chad C 100	Korea K 100	Saudi Arabia S 10
Czech Republic CZ 100	Latvia L 100	Slovenia S 100
Denmark D 100	Lithuania L 100	Slovakia S 100
Egypt E 100	Malaysia M 100	Spain S 100
Finland F 100	Maldives M 100	Sweden S 100
France F 100	Malta M 100	Switzerland S 100
Germany G 100	Mexico M 100	Taiwan T 100
Greece D 400	Morocco M 100	Thailand T 100
Hungary H 100	Netherlands D 400	Turkey T 100
Iceland I 100		USA S 2.75
India IN 50		
Indonesia I 130		
Ireland I 100		
Italy I 100		
Japan J 100		
Korea K 100		
Latvia L 100		
Lithuania L 100		
Malaysia M 100		
Maldives M 100		
Malta M 100		
Mexico M 100		
Morocco M 100		
Netherlands D 400		
Norway N 10		
Oman O 1.00		
Pakistan P 70		
Poland P 100		
Portugal P 200		
Qatar Q 8.50		
Russia R 20		
Saudi Arabia S 10		
Slovenia S 100		
Slovakia S 100		
Spain S 100		
Sweden S 100		
Switzerland S 100		
Taiwan T 100		
Thailand T 100		
Turkey T 100		
USA S 2.75		

The Guardian International

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

46,892

The row over the new De Niro movie

Truth or dare

G2 with European weather



Books

Is that a gun in your pocket...?

Nancy Banks-Smith on the art of great quotations Plus: Andrew Neil, Redmond O'Hanion, Bill Clinton

OnLine

The problem of pain

G2 page 12/13



Fans' tributes to Matthew Harding at Chelsea's ground, Stamford Bridge

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

'Goodbye, Mr Chelsea'

Matthew Harding's legacy will live on in football, report John Duncan and David Ward

HE wasn't a politician, a world leader, or even a great sportsman. He was a businessman, a large investor in a football club and a supporter.

But the fanfare to the Chelsea vice-chairman, Matthew Harding, who was killed in a helicopter crash in Cheshire late on Tuesday as he returned from watching his team play, straddled all those worlds. Tributes flowed yesterday at Stamford Bridge, Chelsea's stadium.

"I was shocked by the news of Matthew's tragic death," said the Prime Minister, John Major, a fellow Chelsea fan. "Chelsea was his passion and he did a huge amount to help the club he loved."

Chelsea have announced that the club's north stand, which Mr Harding's money

helped build, will be named after him. There will be a minute's silence before every Premier League match this weekend.

"This is quite an appalling tragedy and we all feel devastated for his family," said the Labour leader Tony Blair. Last month, Mr Harding donated £1 million to the party. "He was so full of life and vigour and someone deeply committed to his country."

The England coach, Glenn Hoddle, said: "It is almost unbelievable that the game should lose somebody who had so much to offer so young and in such circumstances."

Chelsea's manager, Ruud Gullit, said: "He was a guy who wanted to be a player also, one of us. He was more like a supporter really than a director."

Mr Harding's death, at 42,

touching the high and the low among Chelsea's support - yesterday's impromptu memorial at Stamford Bridge contained one huge floral tribute from the notorious hooligan gang the Headhunters as well as hundreds of touching wreaths.

"Have a word with the main man about getting us a few points," said one. "Goodbye Mr Chelsea," said another.

The accident, which claimed five lives, occurred in Middlewich, Cheshire, at around 11pm on Tuesday as the helicopter carried Mr Harding's party back from Chelsea's game at Bolton. Mr Blair had used the same aircraft after last month's Blackpool conference.

Witness reports suggest some form of engine failure. The wreckage of the French-built helicopter will now be examined by the Civil Aviation Authority.

"It was the dead of night and I could hear it very well," said Josephine Horrocks, who lives less than half a mile from the crash site. "We could tell there

was a problem because the engine was faltering. All of a sudden there was a massive bang."

Mr Harding made his fortune in insurance, rising from office junior to chairman of the profitable Benfield Group, and amassing £170 million. He ploughed £25 million into Chelsea.

"Mr Harding's financial commitment to the club is in place and will not be jeopardised by his death," said Chelsea's chairman, Ken Bates. "His memory is best served by achieving the objectives that he set for the club - in achieving his dream of a world-class team in a world-class stadium."

The other victims of the crash were the pilot Michael Goss, aged 38, a journalist John Banfield, aged 47, and two executives of Benfield companies, Tony Burridge, aged 39, and Raymond Deane, aged 43. The accident claimed a sixth victim when Kate Alderson, 28, a Times journalist attending the scene, died in a car crash.

Obituary, page 10; G2 front

Stalking and paedophile measures reinstated

Major buckles as Labour calls Tories' bluff

Michael White Political Editor

JOHNSON Major's impromptu and unprecedented decision to reinstate bills on stalkers and paedophiles into the Queen's Speech programme after Tony Blair promised co-operation last night threw into disarray government hopes of a fresh start to the six month general election campaign.

Michael Heseltine led senior colleagues in a damage-limitation exercise when it became clear that ministers were open to charges that they had talked tough on anti-crime measures but had their bluff called. Live on TV, Paddy Ashdown called it "the fastest U-turn in history".

Labour was jubilant over a propaganda coup, though it overshadowed Mr Blair's call for an immediate election to mend "the fractured society" - divided by 17 years of irresponsible government.

Paedophiles

- **On** March 22: Howard considers national register.
- **Yes** June 17: Details published.
- **Still on** Oct 8: Howard tells conference: "I'll bring it in."
- **Definitely** Aug 27: Howard boasts about it to World Congress.
- **It's off** Oct 22, am: Howard says private members bill best way.
- **On again** Oct 22, pm: Straw offers deal for government bill.
- **No, it's not** Oct 23, am: It's out of the Queen's Speech.
- **The Big U-turn** Oct 23, 4pm: Major accepts it will be a government bill.

Stalkers

- **On** March 8: Labour's Janet Anderson introduces stalking bill.
- **Off** May 10: Government blocks bill.
- **On again** July 12: Howard announces detailed measures.
- **It's off** Oct 8: Ministers say it won't be in Crime Bill.
- **Still off** Oct 12: Howard says it will be private members bill.
- **On** Oct 22: Straw offers deal for government bill.
- **No, it's not** Oct 23, am: It's out of the Queen's Speech.
- **The Big U-turn** Oct 23, 4pm: Major accepts it will be a government bill.



bill. We have been drafting a bill. It will be made available to a private member and I want to see it on the statute book as soon as possible.

Mr Straw last night upped the stakes by demanding action against combat knives and the promised government bill on sex tourism, thwarted in the last session. Calling the U-turn proof of "weak and indecisive government", he said: "What a shambles this government is in."

The speech by the Lib Dem leader, Mr Ashdown, echoed Mr Blair's complaint that the main thrust of the Queen's Speech was "a ragbag of irrelevant measures from a government in its tormented twilight days."

Simon Hoggart, page 2; Leader comment, page 8; Hugo Young, page 9

After 24 hours of skirmishing over the cabinet's unexpected decision to confine the two measures - arising from high profile court cases - to the hazardous private member's bill procedure, Mr Blair had challenged Mr Major across the dispatch box.

"Bring forward those bills as government bills, on stalking, on paedophiles, and we will co-operate to put them through this House without delay. And you should stop playing the politics and the point-scoring. It can be done."

In an "impromptu" cabinet meeting in the Commons chamber, Mr Major consulted Michael Howard, Mr Heseltine and Tony Newton, Leader of the Commons, before telling MPs he accepted the offer.

Later, in ill-tempered exchanges with John Prescott, Mr Heseltine insisted ministers had exposed Mr Blair's "hypocrisy" on crime and extracted a categorical pledge of co-operation from the Labour leader. "We will hold him to this pledge," he said.

Tory MPs seemed less than delighted at what was bound to be presented as further proof of government drift. But it is unlikely to be the last

such manoeuvre before May 1, the expected election date. Both sides are braced for an increasingly populist bidding war between the parties on the main themes in the Queen's Speech debate - crime, education, and health.

"It's not leadership, it's followership," one Tory protested privately. Mr Blair's allies said Mr Major had been "panicked in mid-speech into conceding Labour's case" by the dramatic offer in a crowded Commons.

But some opposition MPs last night feared the Government might be tempted to strengthen the two bills in the hope of provoking party political confrontation that could be exploited in the election.

Labour said it would not be bullied into rubber-stamping unjustifiable changes.

Old Westminster hands could not remember an occasion in 30 years when ministers had decided at the 18th hour to reverse a decision to leave two bills to the "lottery" of the private members' ballot. Ministers had claimed that, as "non-controversial" measures, they would stand a better chance of becoming law more quickly as private member's bills despite the

vulnerability to filibuster.

On Tuesday key ministers had said on radio and TV that the alternative option, to include the register of paedophiles and the anti-stalking bill in Michael Howard's new Crime Bill, would jeopardise them as the short 13-bill session ends, probably in April.

Harassed by Labour's Jack Straw and Peter Mandelson on paedophilia, the Home Secretary told Radio 4's World at One on Tuesday: "The Government is going to provide a

Tories seek to bar broadcast of Willetts 'sleaze' evidence

David Hencke Westminster Correspondent

THE Government last night was trying desperately to stop a "trial by television" of its high-flying junior minister, David Willetts, in the "cash for questions" affair.

MPs in the House of Commons standards and privileges committee were split over whether the minister's appearance before them next month should be televised or broadcast.

The row broke out when Tony Newton, Leader of the House and the minister chairing the inquiry, tried to impose rules which would allow

print journalists to attend the first public hearing of the committee but barred TV or radio colleagues.

Mr Willetts will face questions over a memo he wrote about trying to influence a previous investigation into whether Neil Hamilton, the disgraced former trade minister had taken cash from Mohamed al-Fayed, the owner of Harrods.

Mr Willetts, then a junior whip, suggested that the committee use its Conservative majority to smother the affair or stop the inquiry because of the then impending libel case against the Guardian.

The row, which Mr Newton turn to page 2, column 7

Inside

Britain
A woman has exchanged a letter for the help of two roads leading into Taliban-held Kabul.

World News

Finance
City analysts forecast sales figures which revealed stock prices growth and fears of a consumer boom repeated.

Finance

Sport
The 1997 World Cup will be held in France, but England's passage into the next World Cup.

Sport

Comment and Letters & Obituaries 10
Crossword 15; Weather 16; Radio 16; TV 16

Comment and Letters & Obituaries 10

Crossword 15; Weather 16; Radio 16; TV 16

Please send me Guardian International/Observer Travel Bag/s £50.00; cost £ _____ I enclose a cheque/money order for the sum of £ _____ or please debit my Visa/Mastercard account.

Card No: _____
Expiry date: _____ Signature: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____ Country: _____
Please allow up to 28 days for delivery.

The Guardian International & The Observer Travel Bag



This classic navy travel bag branded with the Guardian International and Observer logo is constructed from a water resistant, durable PVC. The many notable features include a heavy duty shoulder strap, carry handle and double ended zipper compartments. (60x30x25cm)

To place your order please fill in the form below and send it to: The Guardian International/Observer Travel Bag Offer, PO Box 355, Bushey, Herts WD23 2NA, UK with a cheque or money order for the full amount or fill in your Visa/Mastercard details.

Please send me _____ Guardian International/Observer Travel Bag/s £50.00; cost £ _____ I enclose a cheque/money order for the sum of £ _____ or please debit my Visa/Mastercard account.

Card No: _____
Expiry date: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Country: _____

Please allow up to 28 days for delivery.



770261 307347

Sketch

Black Rod spoils a regal party



Simon Hoggart

THE House of Lords for the State Opening. The Chamber is a riot of gilt embellishments, of murals, of luridly coloured furniture, so looks much like the Spanish Room in the Blackpool Winter Gardens, though with less chance of getting a drink.

The peers are jammed, but tucked to buttock, on the red leather benches, as if the Number 68 bus had been taken over by revellers on their way to a fancy dress party. The judges, all wigs and ermine, are perched perilously next to each other on two big pouffes at the front, like giant fairies occupying adjacent toadstools.

Behind them sit the peers' wives on their own special benches. You can tell the wives of real lords, because they hug themselves and sometimes rub their knees. This is because they live in stately homes, which are always freezing.

Review

Sweet sounds of the suburbs

Garth Cartwright

The Lighthouse Family Shepherd's Bush Empire

WHILE commentators are keen to point out the spiralling success of British pop, rock and dance music in the mid-1990s, there is one area that is constantly overlooked. Des'ree, Incognito, Jamiroquai, M People and now the Lighthouse Family have all succeeded on a massive scale by recreating 1970s soul and funk moves. If there is a formula to this — and its purveyors would deny any such thing — it is to remove soul's grit and funk fervour. The resulting pop-soul concoction has become a daytime radio feature.

Too often derided as wine bar music, these artists are a more popular Chart-topping act than many enjoy at home. Indeed, they are the true sound of the suburbs. Where Oasis and Jungle may rule with teenagers, those settling into paying their first mortgage and holding dinner parties turn to the likes of the Lighthouse Family. This is the tune-up, unfathomable British public that records companies dream of reaching. The same public that sends Luther Vandross and Simply Red albums multi-platinum. It does not matter that these bands barely register in the music or style press, the heartland loves them.

him, but only technically. The Queen arrived with Prince Charles, accompanied by a team of social workers. (I made that bit up, though frankly, if a family as dysfunctional as the Royals lived on a council estate, the local community support team would be holding daily case conferences.)

In fact they were accompanied by various persons whose jobs were even sillier than their names. These included Gold Stick in Waiting, Cap of Maintenance, Portcullis Pursuivant, Maltravers Herald Extraordinary (as opposed to Maltravers Herald Fairly Normal By Comparison), and a Woman of the Bedchamber.

Behind them were four little boys, described on the chart as Pages of Honour. Even they were groaning under the weight of their titles: Lord Eskdaill, Earl Percy, and so forth.

I suppose peer pressure has always been a problem in our schools. At this point the riff-raff from the House of Commons arrives. They have been summoned by Black Rod, whom they refuse at first to admit to the Chamber — a symbolic demonstration that they have no wish to go to the House of Lords, that bourne from which no politician returns.

French president's sympathetic stance includes promotion of European role in peace process

Palestinians fête Chirac

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

FRANCE'S president, Jacques Chirac, was given a hero's welcome by the Palestinians yesterday when he became the first foreign leader to address their parliament, following the tribulations and indignities of his two days in Israel.

previous day to his tormentors: "This is a provocation. Stop this now."

Yesterday, he praised President Yasser Arafat, talked of the building of a Palestinian state, condemned Jewish colonisation of the West Bank, and implicitly backed the Palestinians' claims to at least a share of Jerusalem.

The French leader has become an instant hero to the Palestinians because of his stirring advice of the

freedom and human rights you were for so long denied."

Respect for democratic principles was an asset which earned international support and strengthened confidence among peace partners, he said.

In a clear dig at Israel's go-slow negotiating tactics, Mr Chirac said: "Each new confrontation shows the mortal danger that lies in not moving forward. I am conscious of the frustrations and the humiliations you may feel. I know the

daily suffering that you endure, but it is vital to remain cool and calm despite disappointments — to keep a level head."

Pressing home his case for French and European involvement in the regional peace process, he praised the United States for playing "an essential role".

But, he said, confidence had deteriorated between the two sides. "France and the European Union can build confidence."

which took into account the rights of all parties. For good measure, he called unequivocally for Jewish settlement in the occupied territories to be stopped immediately.

Mr Arafat heaped praise on his guest. "We need you and we look up to your excellency President Chirac to help us in this critical and sensitive stage," he said.

Mr Rifkind said: "It is important — whether it is France, Britain or the US — that we work together. No one in the region wants Europe to get into some competition with the US for influence. That will do little to advance the cause of peace in the Middle East."

of the Gaza Strip. But Israel has not yet given the Palestinians permission to operate flights from their brand new symbol of a statehood.

Mr Chirac was obliged to fly by helicopter to Egypt, and join his own aircraft there.

The Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, last night issued a warning to France against embarking on a lone peace mission in the Middle East.



A suitably enlarged model of the dictionary at the launch at the Banqueting Hall, Whitehall

Final chapter for £32m art project

Dan Glaister reports on the 34-volume Dictionary of Art, now on sale for £5,750

IT INCLUDES Mesopotamian temples and New Brutalism. Futurism, functionalism and the Egyptian pyramids get a look in, as does Warhol. But the question bothering art lovers yesterday at the launch of the 34-volume MacMillan Dictionary of Art — retail price £5,750 — was the whereabouts of Damien Hirst. "He doesn't have his own entry," said the editor, Jane Turner.

The dictionary has cost £32 million to produce and is expected to break even in 2007. It has 15,000 illustrations, the largest collection of images in an art publication, and its index, in a separate volume, runs to 670,000 entries.

Ms Turner, who has been working on the project since its launch in 1982, said: "It's an exciting moment. It's wonderful to see it on the table."

Tories seek to bar broadcast of Willetts 'sleaze' evidence

continued from page 1 hopes to resolve on Monday, means that the committee has made little progress into how it is going to handle its investigation into Mr Hamilton and other Tory MPs who took money from Mr al-Fayed for the lobbyist, Ian Greer.

Mr Hamilton resigned because his constituency association accepted a £500 donation towards his election fund from Mr Greer. Sir Geoffrey resigned because he was lobbied by Mr Willetts over the last inquiry.

The two new people expected to replace them are Sir Archie Hamilton, the former Tory defence minister, and Ernie Rose, veteran Labour MP for Dundee West.

OUR 50TH BIRTHDAY PRESENTS... MINING THE ARCHIVES' CONTRIBUTION TO THE THE THIRD AT 50. UNEARTHING SOME OF THE FINEST TREASURES FROM ITS 50 YEAR HISTORY. FESTIVITIES TO CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF OCTOBER. EVERY FRIDAY AT 3:00PM.

Vertical sidebar text including 'The Guardian Thursday October 24 1996', 'Judge', 'Steel worker left helpless after white hot steel rod pierced skull', 'Case 1', 'Kray tw', 'Duncan Campbell', 'The Guardian', 'Carroll don't', 'Cathol', 'Athl', 'New York'.

Judges reject 'cautious' estimates of projected investment returns

Massive damages slashed on appeal

Steel worker left helpless after white hot steel rod pierced skull

Case 1

Kelvin Page, 29, from Sheerness, Kent
Original award: £906,000
New award: £703,000
Cut: £203,000

KELVIN Page, who is married with a child, joined Sheerness Steel plc in 1989 after leaving the army. In court he was described as an ambitious man who worked hard, constantly looking for opportunities for promotion. In October 1991 he suffered what the appeal court judges called "as horrific an accident as it is possible to imagine".

A rod of white hot steel buckled free from a conveyor belt and hit him on the right temple. It speared his skull, causing severe burn injuries and fracturing his skull in two places.

Mr Page, who remained conscious throughout, manually pulled the bar from his head, causing severe burns to his left hand after a colleague had managed to shorten the rod by cutting through it.

The accident left Mr Page mentally damaged and he was described in court as a "helpless nobody". He suffered epileptic fits, depression, loss of taste and smell, and withdrew from friends and family. He became dependent on his wife and nine-year-old son for care and could not return to work.

Last December Mr Page received what was believed to be the highest award ever made for personal injury in an industrial accident. His former employer appealed against the award, which the trial judge based on a new approach to calculating award of damages for future losses, such as earnings.

The courts originally awarded him, among other amounts, general damages of £80,000, loss of earnings compensation of £28,000 and care costs of £491,000, including £1,000 a year for house maintenance costs, £3,000 a year for a case manager, £3,100 for a housekeeper and £6,700 for the care Mrs Page provides. The Court of Appeal cut the care provision by nearly £150,000.



Kelvin Page at the High Court yesterday, where his injuries award was cut by £203,000

Case 2

Margaret Wells, 62, from Seaford, East Sussex
Original Award: £1.6 million
New Award: £1.1 million
Cut: £500,000

MARGARET Wells, a part-time nurse who was described as "a healthy and happy mother and grandmother", suffered terrible injuries when she was involved in a car crash in 1992. Her skull and jaw were fractured, her spinal cord damaged and there was "severe" damage to her internal organs.

She remained in a coma for more than six months before being transferred to a long-term rehabilitation centre and then home to be looked after by her husband and family.

Despite some small improvements Mrs Wells

remains severely physically and mentally damaged and requires constant care. She does not initiate conversation, is unable to remember things for any length of time and, according to the court, "her communication lies largely in responding to simple questions or prompts".

Physically she needs constant attention and can only walk a few steps with the use of a walking frame and, according to the court, "her communication lies largely in responding to simple questions or prompts".

The original award gave Mrs Wells £120,000 for injury pain and suffering, £21,000 towards the purchase of a new house, £21,000 for new equipment and up to £9,500 a year for therapy.

Her family say the cuts, based in part on a reassessment of her life expectancy from 10 more years to five, will mean they will run out of money. "And then what do we do?" said Mervyn Hedges, her son-in-law.

In the third case Kelvin Page, 29, from Sheerness, Kent, was awarded nearly £1 million after he was hit by a white hot metal rod which came loose from a conveyor belt at a steel factory where he worked. His award was cut by £203,000. Solicitors expect to take their cases to the House of Lords.

The cuts came after insurance companies complained that judges were being too cautious in their estimates of the return victims could expect on the lump sums they were being awarded. Victims are expected to invest their money and use the returns as well as the original sum for their care needs.

Insurance companies said judges should stick to the more usual estimate of a return of between 4 and 5 per cent rather than the new figure of 3 per cent, recommended by the Law Commission report.

Solicitors acting for the victims said their clients should have to invest only in risk-free index-linked government securities, giving lower returns, rather than equities and gilts.

But the appeal court agreed that the lower figure was overly cautious for assessing claims.

Lords Justices Hirst, Auld and Thorpe said the law had been thrown "into a melting pot" by some judges' decision to use the more generous recommendations of the Law Commission. They called for a review of the present law to prevent further confusion.

Paul Kitson, Mr Page's solicitor, said: "Victims will have to continue to gamble their awards on the stock market to ensure a sufficient income for the rest of their lives."

A spokeswoman for the Association of British Insurers said: "We are pleased with the judgment which supports the way compensation claims have been worked out in the past."

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, was granted powers under the Damages Act this year to set the rate of return courts should rely on during compensation claims. He has said he will use the power only once these test cases have completed all possible legal processes.

Crash victim will run out of money

Case 2

Margaret Wells, 62, from Seaford, East Sussex
Original Award: £1.6 million
New Award: £1.1 million
Cut: £500,000

MARGARET Wells, a part-time nurse who was described as "a healthy and happy mother and grandmother", suffered terrible injuries when she was involved in a car crash in 1992. Her skull and jaw were fractured, her spinal cord damaged and there was "severe" damage to her internal organs.

She remained in a coma for more than six months before being transferred to a long-term rehabilitation centre and then home to be looked after by her husband and family.

Despite some small improvements Mrs Wells

remains severely physically and mentally damaged and requires constant care. She does not initiate conversation, is unable to remember things for any length of time and, according to the court, "her communication lies largely in responding to simple questions or prompts".

Physically she needs constant attention and can only walk a few steps with the use of a walking frame and, according to the court, "her communication lies largely in responding to simple questions or prompts".

The original award gave Mrs Wells £120,000 for injury pain and suffering, £21,000 towards the purchase of a new house, £21,000 for new equipment and up to £9,500 a year for therapy.

Her family say the cuts, based in part on a reassessment of her life expectancy from 10 more years to five, will mean they will run out of money. "And then what do we do?" said Mervyn Hedges, her son-in-law.



Margaret Wells, before her life was ruined in a car crash

Hospital's birth blunder left boy too disabled to earn his own living

Case 3

James Thomas, 30, from Brighton, East Sussex
Original award: £1.38 million
New Award: £985,000
Cut: £395,000

JAMES Thomas was born with cerebral palsy in June 1969 at the Royal Sussex county hospital after a diving need to induce labour was wrongly administered.

The family sued Brighton health authority for negligence. The authority accepting liability before the case came to court.

James, the family's first child, was unaffected mentally but suffers from severe physical disabilities including speech and walking problems and an inability to dress or feed himself.

The family had to buy a larger house to cope with

the equipment needed for James, saying that the additional cost was £60,000. Other costs originally awarded included £9,000 for extra laundry, £4,750 for extra heating, £20,000 for extra holiday costs, and £6,000 for the cost of modifying a vehicle.

Also included in the original award to James, who has a life expectancy of 60 years, was money he would need for future care after he had finished school.

The court said that James could reach A level standard, operate a computer and would be able to live on his own but would need support care.

He was awarded the equivalent of £20,000 a year for loss of earnings.

"Although he was determined to do as much for himself as he could, he was too disabled to be able to earn his own living," the court said.

Kray twins join the Internet gang

Birthday boy Reg goes online with an offer surfers cannot refuse, reports Duncan Campbell



IT HAD to happen. The Krays, arch exponents of the Internet, are now on the 63rd birthday today of surviving twin Reg, a web site has been launched which its providers trust will act as a forum for all matters Kray. Surfers will be able to share some of Reg's latest songs and poems, study his trenchant response to an article in the Sun by Paula Yates and some thoughts about the departed Ron.

Mike Pringuer, of Room 102 Internet Design Services, said yesterday they had been working on the site for a month and felt that Reg's birthday was an appropriate time to launch it.

It was hoped that the discussions would look at whether or not Reg should

serve the full minimum prison sentence of 30 years suggested in 1969 by the trial judge.

Reg was convicted of the murder of Jack "The Hat" McVitie and Ron of the murder of George Cornell.

Those who visit the site, which is housed by Frontier Internet Services, will be greeted under the heading 'Sentiments by some of Reg's creative work, including Walk Tall'.

This is dedicated to brother Ron and runs: *Adversity - Respect I've been there Reason I do not relent Is because others have more to regret.*

The next poem up is in more optimistic vein and entitled Free: *My life is without cares Because I refuse*

Reggie Kray... website features songs and poems

To count the days or years So, I am free There's no boundaries for me I am the freest of the free This is my philosophy.

Also reprinted on the site is an article entitled Don't Fall for the Cons which Paula Yates wrote for the Sun newspaper.

In it, Ms Yates recalls how Reg used to write to her when she presented The Tube on

television saying how much he liked the lemon polyester gowns she wore and how he would like a photo of her thus attired. "These I usually passed on to Jools Holland who politely answered," she writes.

Reg responds: "I read with a sense of humour the article written by Paula Yates. Were I to live on a desert island and divorcee Yates were my nearest female neighbour I would decline or resist any thought or temptation of sexual conquest or even the company of Yates. I would prefer to stay monk-like!"

But he indicates that there are no hard feelings when he signs off. "My very best to Paula Yates. I hope she has more success and happiness in the future... than she has had in the past. Thank you, God bless."

Ron, who died last year, is remembered with the words: "Ron is not with us in body. He is with us in spirit."

Visitors to the site should know that it is possible to trace who has been there so the Krays would theoretically be able to see who is showing an interest.

The reason for New York Daily News reporter Lorenzo Carcaterra's reticence is simple enough: a lot of people don't believe a word of his supposedly true story. A Catholic priest says he is a fraud. The Manhattan District Attorney's office insists his story is more fiction than fact.

New York Stories, G2 page 11

Buying a computer for the first time or as a seasoned technology expert, decisions are always made by the head and the wallet and seldom the heart.

The fact is that a Compaq computer is often the heart's desire of any computer buyer, for home or office. So now, with a little help from Technology Online, one of the UK's



largest Compaq dealers, your heart's desire is now priced to suit every wallet and still be a decision your head will be happy with.

And, as if low prices were not enough, Technology Online will add a CareFREE 36, 3 year on site warranty absolutely FREE.

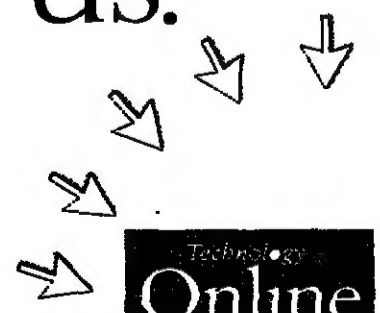
Three years' complete peace of mind and a quality of PC which could only be Compaq.

CareFREE 36
3 year on site warranty



Compaq 486-200 5120 M1060, Intel Pentium® 120-MHz processor, 256 Kb cache, 1-Gb hard drive, 16-MB memory plus Compaq 140, 14" SVGA monitor

FOR HUGE SAVINGS ON COMPAQ COMPUTERS EVERYTHING POINTS TO US.



ORDER HOTLINE Tel: 0345 02 38 65

Technology Online
FAX 01925 830040

COMPAQ COSTS YOU LESS THAN CHEAPER COMPUTERS. Offer valid 31.12.96. Offer valid while stocks last. Photograph shows 15" monitor, price quoted refers to specifications described with and is a guide only. VAT at 17.5%. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation.

Guardian
role in peace process
Shiraz
nsas host
all corner
Thatcher
gland
seek to bar
Watts 'sleaze'

Survey finds hirers rate business and vocational degrees highest, and look for applicants with 'people skills', drive and commitment

Leading firms spurn arts graduates

John Carvel
Education Editor

THE career hopes of students taking arts and humanities degrees were put in doubt yesterday by evidence that most top companies have little interest in employing them.

A survey of personnel directors in 106 leading firms showed 56 per cent favour graduates with business or vocational qualifications, and only 1 per cent would choose the holder of a degree in the arts, classics or general studies if a suitable vocational graduate was available.

In a tight jobs market, with an average of 74 applicants for every graduate job, the view from the boardrooms of firms with an annual turnover averaging £1.5 billion is that they can afford to pick employees with relevant specialised knowledge and useful personal skills.

Surprisingly, the personnel directors were unimpressed by job applicants' language skills, according to the survey by Kadence, presented to the Institute of Personnel Development conference in Harrogate yesterday.

Only 2 per cent spontaneously mentioned a requirement for language skills. When they were prompted with a list of 14 competences to look for in a potential graduate recruit, they ranked ability to operate in a foreign language at the bottom.

Instead, the employers looked for a range of "people skills", headed by ability to

Job facts

- For each graduate recruited there are on average 74 applicants of which 12 make it to a first interview and 7 to a second.
- On average 8 out of 10 graduates accept a job if offered.
- Each graduate costs employers £4,600 on average to recruit.
- Employers need to invest £60,000 in each graduate before making a return.
- Graduates get 14 per cent pay rises each year on average for the first three years.
- A third of graduate recruits leave in the first three years and some firms retain only 30 per cent.

work in a team, leadership and personal initiative, business awareness, communication skills, problem solving ability and technical competence.

They said they had the most difficulty finding candidates with drive and commitment, teamwork spirit and oral communication skills.

"For too long the headline debate about the output from higher education has focused on the lack of scientists, engineers or technologists," said Simon Howard, chairman of PA Advertising, one of the recruitment specialists which commissioned the research.

That might be a problem for a few firms. "But the basic funder the education system churns out needs to be more employable for the majority of recruiters. It is all very

well exhorting the education establishment to turn out a more employable product, but higher education probably does not possess the skills itself to develop young people's core skills."

Closer partnerships between firms and universities might have to be considered. It would not be good enough for graduate employers to compare notes and compete for the same 5 per cent of top candidates. Firms had to work out the core skills they needed, target their message and stand out from the crowd, he said.

About a fifth of the companies thought women graduates were more likely to possess the necessary business and interpersonal skills, but two-fifths disagreed. A "hard core minority" of 15 per cent thought the employment prospects of some male graduates might be better.

The quality of university careers advice services was rated as poor by 68 per cent of personnel directors. Only one employer with a formal graduate recruitment scheme thought the service was very good, and only one in 10 thought it was fairly good, but few complained since firms did not pay.

The most popular answers by personnel directors asked to give advice to a 17-year-old were: go to university (23 per cent), do a specific degree for a specific career (21 per cent), do as much work experience as possible (19 per cent), be broad-minded/keep all options open (12 per cent), work as hard as possible (10 per cent).

Arts

'On graduation I thought the perfect job would come my way'

Victoria Clark

"I'M 24 — unfortunately, I'll be 25 next year and I still haven't got a proper job."

Lois Barclay, who lives with her parents in Flintshire, North Wales, has not only a politics, philosophy and economics (PPE) degree, but also a diploma in environmental economics and environmental management to offer an employer.

So far the diploma has made no difference, but at least she is applying for more jobs now than she did when she first graduated in June 1994. "I didn't make brilliant efforts back then because I didn't know what I wanted to do. I just thought the perfect job would come my way."

Her home is 11 miles from Chester, which is "certainly an encouragement to try and get a job," she said. She scours the Guardian's job pages and her university's graduate bulletin.

She is entitled to a Job-



Lois Barclay... searching for 'a proper job' armed with a diploma as well as a PPE degree

seeker's Allowance of £28 a week for as long as she can show that she is trying to find work. She has her name down with temping agencies but

no jobs have come up. She could stock supermarket shelves but will not seek a permanent job of this kind. "I'd feel so dishonest because I'd be off for inter-

views all the time." In August she took part in an "assessment" day for a traineeship in retail operations management at B&Q superstores, but they have

not contacted her since. A management traineeship with South Oxfordshire district council is her ray of hope — it would be her ideal job.



A detail from the work by Lucien Freud which cannot attract a purchase grant from the fund because it is less than 20 years old

Work of art is "too new" for Heritage Fund

Dan Glastier
Arts Correspondent

HOW old does a work of art have to be before it becomes a piece of heritage? At least 20 years, according to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The fund, which has given £26 million of lottery money to acquire works of art, turned down an application from the Abbot Hall Art Gallery and Museum in Kendal, Cumbria, to buy a painting by

Lucien Freud, because it is too new. Freud, widely considered one of Britain's finest living painters, was praised last week by the National Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, in a speech to the Royal Society of Arts.

With the picture due to be auctioned in New York last night, the gallery had only raised £220,000 of the £780,000 asking price. Despite an extension to delay the sale, the painting seemed set to go to a private American buyer.

"The trustees set a threshold for contemporary arts that they should have been produced 20 years ago," said a spokeswoman for the fund. "That seemed a reasonable period for the significance of the work to be assessed."

But Abbot Hall director Edward King said: "Each case should be looked at on its merits. Twenty years has to be an arbitrary date. Why not 25 or 30? The irony is that the Department of National Heritage recently placed an export block on the sale of another

Freud painting, Zebra's Head, because it was more than 50 years old."

Funds were provided by the Victoria & Albert Museum, which pledged £50,000, and the National Art Collection Fund, which donated £75,000. David Barrie, director of the National Art Collection Fund, said: "We are in no doubt that this is a great work by an artist who is now doing some of his best work."

"The lottery organisations should look at where they stand on the purchase of con-

temporary art."

A spokesman for the Department of National Heritage said: "There are no plans to amend the regulations. We look to the distributing bodies to come up with regulations and we are happy with what they are doing."

The gallery also approached the Arts Council which is unable to give funds to assist the purchase of works of art. A spokeswoman for the Arts Council said: "There is a gap, but these are the rules."

Science

'I went to three interviews and I was offered three jobs'

Victoria Clark

MA RTIN Foster was "knee high to a grasshopper" when he decided he wanted a job in information technology, like his dad. But even he was surprised by the speed with which he moved from university into a job.

A month after graduating from York University this July with an M Eng degree in computer science and software engineering, he found himself somewhere to live in London and kitted himself out with a briefcase and smart suits before starting work with Logica, a leading computer consultancy.

He was too busy to reward himself for his 2:1 degree by taking a holiday and would have started work immediately had security procedures not delayed him.

"You see on the news and read in the papers how bad the job market is. You don't understand how well you stand out in the real world," says Foster, who is delighted with his colleagues, his office and a salary of £17,500 a year. He started thinking about jobs a year before graduating, when the big companies came on the "milk round" in search of the cream of young graduates. He picked up a few application forms but did not get



Martin Foster, delighted with job

around to sending eight of them off for another six months. By April this year, three of the best companies had already offered him jobs. "I went to three interviews and was offered three jobs — that surprised me," he says, noting that, as far as he knows, all nine students on his course have got jobs.

"There are a lot of jobs around and if you're reasonably competent you stand a good chance in this field. It's not as if there are 10 places and a thousand applicants in

this kind of work." Foster describes his university course as "excellent" because it covered a lot of ground and gave him a good idea of what the possibilities were. Although he would prefer to be involved in creating computer software — "I like building things," he says — the systems evaluation work he is doing at the moment is interesting and useful. "It's different. I never thought I'd be doing evaluation, but I learn a lot from seeing people's mistakes."

Gun group says planned curbs on weapons are 'akin to Nazi rule'

Stuart Miller

GUN lobbyists yesterday provoked fury with claims that controls in the wake of the Dunblane tragedy are akin to Nazi rule.

The Shooters' Rights Association, which plans to stand against Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, at the general election, has circulated literature to supporters which accuses politicians of being engaged in a plot to threaten democracy by disarming the British people.

It states: "The spectre of the most pernicious and evil legislation to stalk Europe since the reign of the Third Reich is about to be forced upon the British nation. Some people think this

will just affect pistol shooters who are dispensable. Some shooters even think that because their particular interest has been avoided, they have nothing to worry about.

"This proposed law will affect each and every citizen of this once proud country. It paves the way for the kind of government that can rule by decree by first disarming the people it is supposed to serve."

The association's secretary, Richard Law, said yesterday: "All the political parties are taking on board a gun ban. We have as much representation in Parliament as Jews had in the Reichstag."

He added: "In a democratic country we have had governments for decades who recognised minority rights. All of a sudden when white middle

class people are involved we don't have any rights."

Politicians and representatives of the Dunblane families condemned the material. Ann Pearson, co-founder of the Snowdrop Campaign, said the proposal was anathema to the association's isolation.

"The more the SRA come out with, the more irrational they are about the reasons they hold guns for. They seem to worry about protecting themselves from some unknown threat, but this only reinforces to the British public that guns should go and go now."

George Robertson, shadow Scottish secretary, who lives in Dunblane, said the references to the Third Reich were "disgraceful and beneath contempt".

Couple in £10 million forgery plot, court told

Week Chaudhary

A COUPLE attempted to defraud a building society of almost £10 million using the only cheque ever stolen from the Bank of England, a court was told yesterday.

Peter Garnett, aged 54, was arrested soon after he paid the cheque into a branch of the Midland Bank when the manager became suspicious.

The court heard that Garnett claimed the cheque handed to him at King's Cross station by someone he was unable to contact.

Brendan Finucane, prosecuting, told Middlesex Guildhall crown court in London that the cheque for £2,768,453.35 was made out to Scott and Company, a Not-

tingham based company linked to Garnett and his wife Linda, aged 52.

The cheque, which bore forged signatures, had been stolen from the Bank of England. "It is believed to be the only one that ever has been. It is an unusual situation that any cheque should disappear from there," he said.

The Garnetts, of Bermondsey, south London, deny a joint charge of conspiring with others unknown to defraud the Nationwide.

The manager became suspicious because the account to be credited had never contained more than a few thousand pounds. Garnett was arrested by officers from the Fraud Squad when he returned to the Midland Bank to collect £50,000.

easyJet

Amsterdam

Smart Class
Not Club Class
£35
easyJet

www.easyjet.com

10500 0500

Handwritten scribble at the bottom of the page.

Toddler's death 'a merciful release'

Man who tortured son gets 10 years

Stuart Miller

A FATHER who brutalised and tortured his baby son until the child's death was yesterday jailed for 10 years at Southampton crown court.

Philip Scammell, a window cleaner, aged 28, and his former girlfriend, Jill Mills, aged 38, it was a "merciful release" when the toddler died.

Scammell, of Calmore, Hampshire, was convicted earlier this month on two charges of cruelty, which he had denied. Mills will serve six years in jail after pleading guilty to two charges of cruelty and causing grievous bodily harm.

The court heard that 21-month-old Ryan Crosssett had two broken ankles, a fractured skull and was covered in bite marks and burns when his body was found in Mills's home in the early hours of February 18 this year.

Although his death was caused by respiratory illness, post-mortem examinations revealed he had suffered appalling cruelty and neglect. The torture he had endured included being held against a boiling radiator and having a key screwed into his neck.

Scammell and the child's mother, Carol, had split up shortly before Ryan's birth. The judge said it "beggared belief" how the child had been placed with his father by Hampshire social services after being taken into care when his mother could not cope. "I would like to know whether an unoccupied house,



Ryan Crosssett: post-mortem examination showed injuries could without heating, full of beer bottles, where men play cards, is a suitable home for a child to be placed."

As two male members of the jury which convicted Scammell wept in the public gallery, the judge told him: "No one will ever know the truth about the way in which you brutalised that little boy. It was a merciful release when he died, because you know what you would have thought of next."

"It is said you have feelings of remorse but no one apart from your counsel has ever seen them. Your counsel said it was one of the gravest cases he has ever seen and it is certainly one of the gravest I have. The maximum sentence is to be reserved for the gravest cases and I see no reason to part from that."

On the day before his death, Ryan had been placed on a

potty when Scammell, who had a long criminal record for burglary and a conviction for assaulting a police officer, went to work at 8am and left there all day. When he returned to find the child had not used the potty, Scammell pushed a key into his neck, shouted at the child and placed him in a cold bath.

After an argument between Scammell and Mills the child was held against a radiator then placed in a cold bath. He was put to bed where he died a short time afterwards.

When the body was found, the death was immediately treated as suspicious. A post-mortem examination revealed the toddler had died of natural causes but also showed the horrific injuries.

After the sentence, a spokesman for Hampshire social services said an independent review into the death had found no single agency was to blame, but had identified a series of shortcomings in social services and health service communications and procedures. The recommendations of an internal review were still being considered.

Detective Inspector Tom Tobin, head of Hampshire police's western child protection unit, said: "All of the officers on the child protection team are seasoned police officers, but they are also parents and found the evidence deeply disturbing. I personally found it an extremely harrowing investigation. We are pleased with the sentences given, but there are no victims in a case like this, only victims, and Ryan is at the top of the list."



Philip Scammell: given maximum sentence for cruelty to son

New tests able to spot CJD 'sooner'

Tim Radford
Science Editor

B RITISH scientists have found a way of identifying the rogue protein behind the new form of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease — first identified in March — that has struck down 14 people in Britain.

This "signature" is also seen in bovine spongiform encephalopathy — BSE, or mad cow disease — and is further support for the belief that the new human disease is caused by BSE-infected meat.

The news, revealed in Nature today, means that doctors could soon test for varieties of CJD within days. At the moment, samples of the infected tissue have to be transferred to mice which are then monitored for a year or more. Confirmation of the disease in humans has so far been possible only after death.

The new test works only with brain tissue, but John Collinge, of the Imperial College School of Medicine at St Mary's Hospital, said yesterday that within months the technique might be able to detect differing strains of CJD in lymph node and tonsil tissues. Within two years, it might be possible to detect the form of CJD by a blood test.

BSE, CJD and sheep scrapie appear to be caused by a maverick version of a protein known as a prion, which triggers a switch to the abnormal form in other proteins in the brain. Dementia appears, and death follows. CJD has always been rare in humans, occurring in the

over-60s, but the new form linked to BSE has, so far, attacked much younger victims.

Research in September suggested that infected material from 750,000 cattle may have got into the human food chain before the Government banned bovine offals in 1989 and 1990.

The guess is that if the disease gets to humans through infected meat, it could take five or 15 years for symptoms to appear.

The results from Prof Collinge's laboratory should mean scientists can distinguish between types of CJD, and help determine a cause. It also means they can look back at samples in pathology labs throughout Europe to see if the "new variant" of CJD had appeared before BSE.

"Secondly, it may be that BSE in humans has other forms — it presents in different ways than variant CJD. So far new variant CJD has been seen principally in young people," he said. "There is no particularly obvious explanation why it does not affect the elderly. One explanation could be that it does affect the elderly but it doesn't look like new CJD."

The research has another, more profound pay-off. It means researchers are beginning to learn about the protein molecule at the root of a whole suite of afflictions known as prion diseases.

"Understanding the molecular nature of this infectious agent is crucial to developing therapeutic agents — effective treatments for these diseases in the long term," he said.

Midweek lottery to offer £6m extra prize money

Andrew Culf
Media Correspondent

THE midweek National Lottery draw is expected to increase ticket sales by up to 30 per cent and provide an additional £6 million in prizes every week.

Camelot said yesterday the Wednesday night draw would have an estimated \$4 million jackpot.

Research has indicated 55 per cent of the population would participate.

Peter Davis, the lottery regulator, who announced the go-ahead for the second game yesterday, said: "It is a natural and timely development in the life of our National Lottery."

He brushed aside objections from churches and anti-gambling organisations, denying it would lead to excessive participation.

Camelot said it had no plans for further weekly draws, but would try to develop other ideas during its seven-year licence.

The midweek draw formed part of Camelot's original application and will be shown on BBC1, probably at 8pm. Tim Holley, chief executive

New rules

Format and prize structure to be the same as Saturday game: players choose six numbers from 49.

Draws will take place on Wednesday nights in addition to Saturday.

New play-offs will let players specify whether they want to enter Saturday only, Wednesday only, or both.

Jackpots not won will roll over from Wednesday to Saturday for a maximum of three draws.

of Camelot said: "It will add to the fun and excitement... but most importantly help ensure our £9 billion target of funds to the good causes is met."

Camelot said it had originally planned to launch a midweek draw in spring 1996 but had held back because of stronger than expected initial sales. The new game, likely to be introduced in January or February, follows a predicted fall in annual ticket sales from \$2.2 billion in the first year to \$4.8 billion in 1996. The operator said \$6 mil-

lion more would be available in prize money each week, with \$28 million more for retailers in commission every year. There would be 250,000 more winners each week.

Mr Davis has agreed to the jackpot rolling over from Wednesdays to Saturdays, but ordered Camelot to change its plans to ensure players would be able to specify which draw they wished to take part in.

He said there was no evidence hardcore gambling would increase as a result of the change. "The mechanics of lotto games — long odds, low stakes, and the time between the draw and prize payment — do not encourage problem gambling."

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, who originally was opposed to the second draw, said: "I welcome the decision to monitor carefully the introduction of the midweek draw to ensure interests of participants are properly protected."

But Jack Cunningham, Labour's heritage spokesman, said: "It is premature to extend the lottery in this way until a proper assessment is made of its impact on gambling, charities and those who can ill afford to buy tickets."

Third case of refusal over sperm sample

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

D OCTORS refused a third request to inseminate a woman with sperm taken from her dying partner, it emerged yesterday.

The request was made three years ago at the Walsgrave Hospital in Coventry. The man was brain dead and doctors asked his girlfriend's permission to use his organs for transplant before switching off his life support machine.

She agreed but only on condition that doctors took a sperm sample from the man to inseminate her. The doctors consulted Midland Fertility Services in Aldridge, West Midlands, who refused the request.

Peter Bromwich, medical director of Midland Fertility Services, said: "I said we would be unable to do it. I knew that we couldn't use his

sperm without his consent." A third factor was that the couple were not married, he added.

The case is the second to emerge this week, following a High Court ruling denying Diane Blood, a 30-year-old widow from Worktop, Notts, the right to be inseminated with her dead husband's sperm.

In another case, doctors refused to take sperm from a man in a coma following a road crash, although he and his wife had been undergoing infertility treatment before he died.

The disclosures will increase pressure for a change in the law to remove the ban on use of sperm after a man's death without his written consent. Mrs Blood's MP, Joe Ashton (Lab, Bassetlaw), is seeking an adjournment debate on the issue next week.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, 1990, bans treatment in the UK with a man's sperm, unless husband and wife are treated together. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), which enforces the act, has a discretion to allow sperm to be exported to another country, but refuses to exercise it in Mrs Blood's case.

Lord Winston, professor of fertility studies at Hammer-smith Hospital, London, said last night: "There is a serious risk that if the HFEA is seen to be taking decisions that are remote from real issues, doctors may not consult them. It would encourage doctors to avoid the law."

Lord Winston, who is backing Mrs Blood's case, said there would be nothing to stop a doctor taking testicular tissue and exporting it abroad, where sperm could be extracted later. The export of testicular tissue is not regulated by the act.

World leaders

If you are looking for authoritative and hard-hitting reporting, try the Guardian International and the new-look Observer. Blending news, analysis, business, sport and features, both papers have a unique style and a long tradition of independent journalism. Worldwide distribution, and European print-runs for the Guardian International, ensure that you'll find us, wherever you are in the world. So when you want to get to the heart of global issues, follow the world leaders.

www.who

is the fastest on the net?

Planet Online Ltd. The UK's largest ISDN Internet network. The only network dedicated to business.

Planet

Web site: <http://www.thoplanet.net> E-mail: sales@thoplanet.net

freecall 0500 550 650 ref 6/02/96

The Guardian

The Observer

Stern rules and harsh punishments are the way to Islamic Utopia, writes Jonathan Steele in Kabul

Taliban aim for 'perfect society'

INCENSED by a theft, a group of Taliban took the tin of cooking oil the man had allegedly stolen from a shop, poured some into a saucepan and heated it to boiling point. Then they dipped his right hand into the bubbling liquid, took it out and severed it at the wrist with an axe.

To make sure the message was widely received, the alleged thief was paraded around the street with the stump of his mutilated arm held up for all to see.

The incident happened in Logar province, south of Kabul, last month shortly before the Taliban captured the capital. The Taliban policeman who recounted it at the weekend boasted that it was public punishments such as these which had helped to reduce crime dramatically in the three weeks since the Taliban took power in Kabul.

Mohammad Zalmi, the newly appointed deputy commander of Kabul's police district two, was sitting across the room as the policeman described the amputation, which he had witnessed. The district, known as Murad Khani, is roughly halfway between the Taliban headquarters in the Argh, the old presidential palace, and Kabul's central bazaar. The crowded market with its roadside stalls, teeming alleys and

hundreds of shoppers, used to be a favourite haunt of pickpockets. Now, said Mr Zalmi, "since the Taliban came in, there has not been a single case of crime". Shopkeepers who were getting rid of their night watchmen and security guards.

"You can walk around the streets with large sums of money, and you will be perfectly safe," he added.

states, according to Taliban officials. Now that they have taken Kabul, always Afghanistan's most modern city, they believe they can create a "perfect society" as Mr Zalmi put it. With the fanaticism of utopians, they claim they will form a new Islamic man who will be free of vice, and they are bringing in stern punishment immediately.

Under Afghan interpretations of sharia law, men and women caught committing adultery are likely to be tied up in separate sacks and stoned to death. "People understand that the Taliban are implementing sharia law, so there is no adultery now," Mr Zalmi asserted.

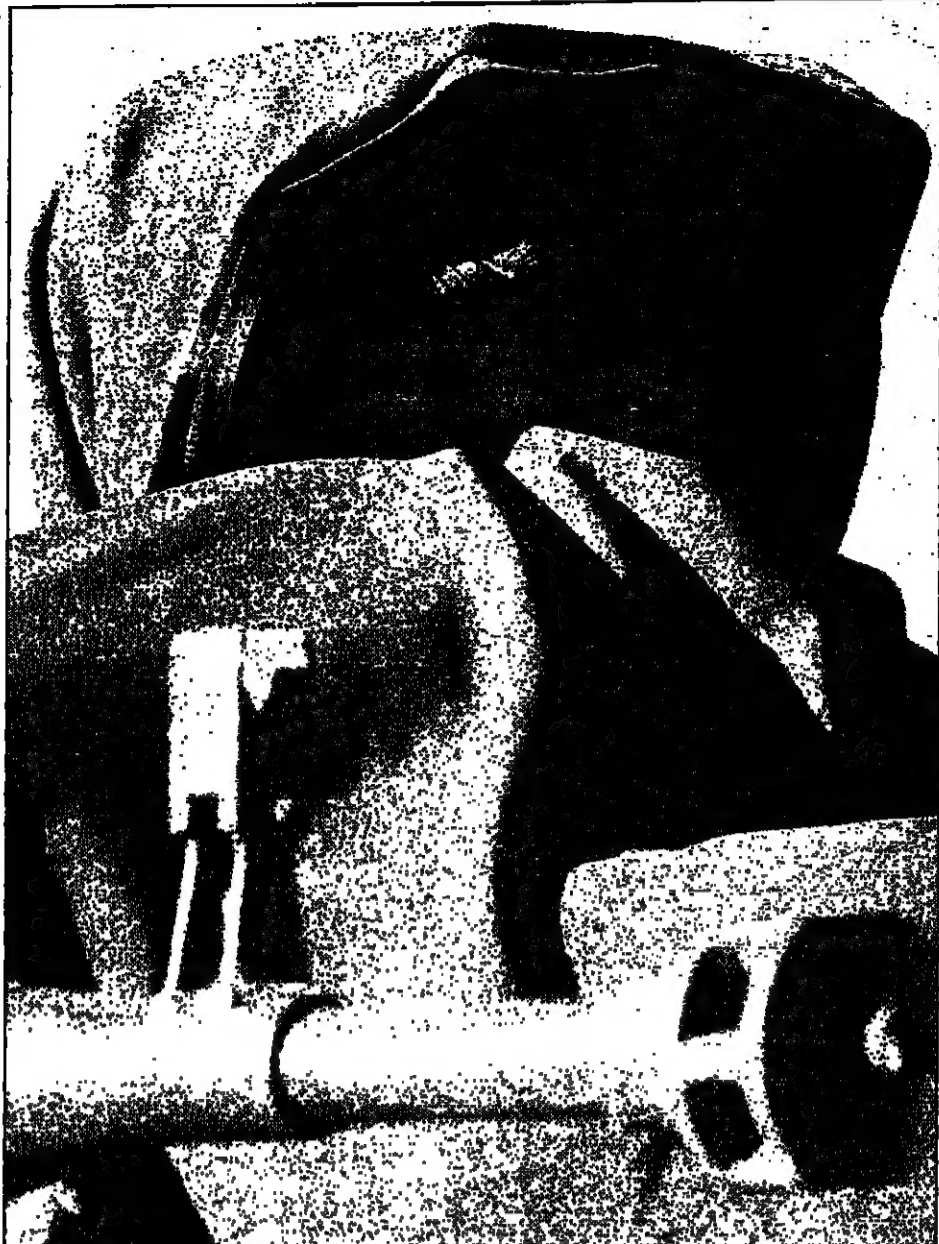
The 34-year-old deputy police commander is a mulah. He was vague about what qualifications impressed the Taliban leadership enough to give him responsibility for several hundred thousand Kabul citizens. He had never been involved in police work before. He did not attend secondary school, but studied Islam in a madrasah (religious school), he said. During the Soviet occupation he was a mujahedin commander.

The Taliban have kept Kabul's traffic police. They still direct cars and horse-drawn carts at busy crossings, lifted out in Western-style uniforms from the communist period. The rest of the police have been dismissed, except for "the few who had not committed crimes". The new fundamentalist force has no rank structure and receives no salary. "We work for God," Mr Zalmi said.

When the Najibullah government collapsed in 1992 and the mujahedin took power, they threatened to bring in a system of harsh punishment. Three rapists were hanged publicly in the first few days. Then, as the mujahedin fell out amongst themselves and reigned the civil war, law and order broke down.

Earlier this year they tried again. A wooden gallows with three ropes stands about 100 yards from the Murad Khani police station on the edge of a park and in full view of the central market. Three murderers were hanged there this spring.

But the mujahedin never enforced sharia law as strictly as the Taliban are doing, nor did they have such chilling plans to create a "perfect society".



A Taliban gunman huddles up against the cold north of Kabul. PHOTOGRAPH: SANTIAGO LYON

Mr Zalmi said the Taliban police were actively trying to track down illegally-held weapons. Kabul's report that house-to-house searches take place in different parts of the city almost every night. The normal pattern is for the Taliban to knock on the door of a house, operating on a tip-off. A man who works for an international aid agency showed us his severely bruised face, still swollen four days after a group of Taliban came into his house before dawn. They demanded to

know where he was hiding weapons and, after searching and finding nothing, took him to a police station. His legs were tied together with a turban cloth and he was thrown on to the floor. One Taliban set on each of his arms and another held up his legs. A fourth man beat the soles of his feet with a knotted wire until he lost consciousness. He was kept in a cell until the following day when his foreign employer protested to the authorities and obtained an order for his

release. The man is still too lame to walk. His family originated from the Panjshir valley, the headquarters of Ahmad Shah Massoud, the former defence minister who is leading his forces against Kabul. Two neighbours were also detained and beaten, the man said. The International Committee for the Red Cross put the number of people detained, beaten and released by the Taliban for similar security-related reasons at several hundred.

Afghan rivals battle for heights north of Kabul

Jeremy Wagstaff in Kabul

AFGHAN militias exchanged artillery, mortar and rocket fire yesterday, vying for the heights overlooking one of the two roads leading into Taliban-held Kabul.

Forces of the ousted Rabbani government said they had launched an assault to recapture the De Sabz pass leading into north-east Kabul, from which they retreated last month when the Taliban attacked.

"We are progressing. We have taken control of the high positions and we will soon clear the Taliban's remaining positions," a spokesman for the former defence minister Ahmed Shah Massoud said. Massoud's forces, which he led from a base 30 miles north of Kabul, — Reuters.

Taliban leader Rashid Dostum, which joined Commander Massoud's front line last week, had taken part in the attack.

But there was no sign of a major advance by Commander Massoud or Gen Dostum as the two sides shelled each other's positions around a range of hills.

Taliban fighters denied they had been pushed out of their positions and said they were trying to oust Commander Massoud's forces from hills in the middle of the plain and retake the Begram air base, 30 miles north of Kabul. — Reuters.

'Old Man Jesse' backs the colour card

Jonathan Freedland reports from Troy, North Carolina, on Senator Helm's claim that his rival has profited by his race

THE rightwing senator Jesse Helms turned his battle for re-election into a racial conflict yesterday, accusing his black opponent of exploiting his colour for financial gain.

Mr Helms — who once referred to blacks as "Negro hoodlums" and called Martin Luther King a pervert — claimed that the Democrat Harvey Gantt, a millionaire architect, had improperly used his minority status to win government contracts.

The Gantt campaign instantly denied the accusation, made in a 30-second television advert. They pointed to the Helms-Gantt contest in 1990, a vicious campaign in which the Republicans ran one of the

most notorious television adverts in US political history. It showed a white man losing a job to a black candidate, simply "because of a racial quota". Mr Gantt lost by six points.

Polls show this year's match just as close. Two show Mr Helms leading by seven points, one places Mr Gantt narrowly ahead.

As in 1990, the North Carolina contest has attracted national attention. A coalition of blacks, whites and liberal pressure groups is sending money and volunteers to help slay Mr Helms, famed as the oldest dragon of the American right.

In 24 years in the senate, he has offended nearly every minority group. He referred to

homosexuals as "weak, morally sick wretches," and said people with Aids were dying because of their "deliberate, disgusting, revolting conduct".

The playing of the race card suggests Mr Helms is far from confident he will win a fifth six-year term. Republican aides had suggested that the senator, aged 75, would run a "kinder, gentler" campaign this year, offering himself as a grandfather to the state.

But Mr Helms has kept up a relentless onslaught on his opponent, with television ads branding him as "More liberal than Bill Clinton, too liberal for North Carolina".

Almost all the attacks on Mr Gantt are on television, for Mr Helms runs a stealth campaign, making few personal appearances and deliberately failing to inform the media of his movements. He has repeatedly refused to meet Mr Gantt for a face-to-face debate.

Mr Gantt concedes that fighting a shadow candidate is tough. "He's gotten away with not campaigning and just projecting an image of what he is," he told the Guardian. "But the fact is, that image is breaking down."

As he criss-crosses the state, attending rallies and meetings, Mr Gantt is cutting a much more moderate figure than he did six years ago — when he was fatally cast as a liberal firebrand.

The result is that Mr Gantt's campaign is almost a carbon-copy of Bill Clinton's: conservative positions on crime and moral issues, and accusations that his opponent hastens education, the environment and health care for the elderly — all of which won loud applause in Troy.

But beating Mr Helms will not be easy. "He's kind of an icon," admits Mr Gantt. "He's been there so long, he's kind of an institution for people."

People like Kathleen Elam, an administrator at the Senior Centre. She liked Mr Gantt enough to hug him after his speech. But, like other white North Carolinians, she is not ready to fire Old Man Jesse just yet. "I think Jesse Helms is a very fair, honest man. I really trust him," she said.



Senator Jesse Helms: Long career of race-baiting

News in brief

Sudan floods kill 100

More than 100 people have been killed and thousands made homeless by Nile floods and heavy rain in southern Sudan, a Khartoum newspaper said yesterday.

The privately-owned Alwan daily said 52 people had died in Lakes state and another 50 in Tonga province in Upper Nile state. — Reuters.

Nuclear tourism

French Polynesia plans to double pearl production and income from tourism by the year 2005 to make up for a cash shortfall after France ended nuclear testing in the South Pacific. — Reuters.

Blast victims

Separatist guerrillas detonated a car bomb yesterday in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir state, India, killing at least two people and wounding five. — Reuters.

Privacy breached

A Paris court yesterday ordered Dr Claude Gubler, physician to Francois Mitterrand, to pay 340,000 francs (\$45,000) in damages to his relatives for invasion of privacy in a book disclosing details of his cancer. — Reuters.

River traffic halted

Shipping was halted on the Danube yesterday as workers tried to find the wreck of a tugboat sucked into a dam gate and sunk just south-east of Vienna. Eight people are believed drowned. — AP.

War crime charge

An Italian military prosecutor, Aniloro Intelliano, said yesterday that he had sought the indictment of a second former SS officer, Karl Hass, on a charge of involvement in the same atrocity as Erich Priebke. — Reuters.

Dearest stamp

The world's most valuable postage stamp, the "Freskilling Yellow", worth \$1.2 million (\$770,000), rescued by a Swedish schoolboy in 1985 from his grandmother's rubbish bin, goes on sale in Zurich next month. — Reuters.

Black marks

A yearling study into an outbreak of black spots on hundreds of Cypriot school children has discovered a cure — don't jab yourself with a pencil. — Reuters.

Democrats query gift from Gandhi's great-great nephew

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

LIKE his revered great-great-uncle Mahatma Gandhi, Yogesh Gandhi says he has no money, in fact he is in debt. If that is so, how did he manage to contribute \$325,000 (\$208,000) to the Democratic Party?

That is a question the Federal Election Commission is now investigating at the request of the Democrat national committee, which declines to return Mr Gandhi's money because, as a legal US resident, he is not barred from donating.

The money is the latest in a series of mystery donations from foreigners. The committee has already returned \$250,000 to a South Korean firm, and \$5,000 to a Los Angeles Buddhist temple.

It is also under criticism for accepting \$482,000 from an Indonesian couple connected with the \$6 billion Lippo firm in Jakarta, and has sacked its California fund-raiser, John Huang, who brought in questionable six-figure donations from foreign sources. It was Mr Huang who in

May helped Mr Gandhi to present President Bill Clinton with a bust of the great Indian leader, on behalf of the Gandhi Memorial International Foundation, which Mr Gandhi runs from his house in Orinda, a San Francisco Bay suburb.

Mr Huang also helped to arrange the \$325,000 gift. Mr Gandhi told the Los Angeles Times that it came from several technology deals with overseas firms seeking to enter the Indian market.

The court ordered him to appear on November 1 — four days before the presidential election — to explain a default on a further \$5,000 he owes.

The Democrats could help by handing back the \$325,000. But this might strengthen accusations that the party and the president are accepting overseas donations which may come secretly from foreign governments.

Other members of the Mahatma's family are distancing themselves from Mr Gandhi. His grandson Arun Gandhi, who runs the MK Gandhi Institute for Non-violence in Memphis, says his cousin indulges in his "gift of the gab".

Israelis and Palestinians close to agreement on withdrawal of forces from Hebron

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

ISRAELI and the Palestinians are close to agreement on the long-delayed withdrawal of Israeli forces from the West Bank city of Hebron, the United States ambassador, Martin Indyk, said last night.

"We are engaged now in very intensive negotiations... We have made very substantial progress. I think we are relatively close to the end... but we still have some difficult issues to resolve," he told Israel radio.

Earlier, the Palestinian president, Yasser Arafat, said that after the latest all-night negotiating session the gap between the two sides was still "very wide".

But as the weary negotiators assembled in a Jerusalem hotel yesterday for yet another day of talks — the 17th in the current round — hopes were boosted by the appearance of the Israeli military chief, Amnon Shahak, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's number two, Mahmoud Abbas, better known as Abu Mazen.

Also taking part in the session was the US special envoy

Dennis Ross. On Monday he abruptly announced his return to Washington, but stayed when told of new progress in the talks.

At that stage the main sticking point was the so-called civilian-affairs section of the deal, covering the administration of Hebron after Israel's redeployment.

According to well-informed reports yesterday, Israel now accepts that the handful of Jewish settlers who live among 100,000 Palestinians in the city will have local services provided by the Palestinian Authority (PA) and municipality. The PLO negotiators, meanwhile, have accepted restrictions on the height of new buildings adjacent to the scattered Jewish settlements in the city.

The focus has shifted again to security arrangements. Under the original deal made a year ago, Israel was to maintain a security presence around the Jewish settlements, but relinquish most of the city to PA forces.

The new rightwing government wants to extend the area of Israeli control, retain a right of pursuit into Palestinian areas and ban Palestinian

police from carrying weapons larger than pistols. The security issue was given new urgency yesterday by a report on Israel radio, quoting a senior Palestinian police source, that large numbers of weapons have been brought into Hebron by the PA to counter any violent reaction to the pull-out by the armed and militant settlers, both in Hebron and in the adjacent Jewish fundamentalist settlement of Kiryat Arba.

The settlers immediately said that if they were attacked they would return fire. The tension was further heightened yesterday by a public warning from the Israeli police chief, Assaf Hefetz, to be on alert against possible Palestinian militant attacks. The police force has stepped up patrols and checkpoints, and army bomb disposal teams are on stand-by.

Junta detains Suu Kyi aide as students rally

Nicholas Cunningham-Bruce in Bangkok and AP in Rangoon

BURMA'S military government arrested a senior leader of Aung San Suu Kyi's democracy movement yesterday on suspicion of planning the largest protest by university students in years.

Several hundred Burmese students were demonstrating on a university campus in Rangoon against the detention of three fellow students by security forces, a rare public protest in a city under tight military control.

The students said their protest against police brutality was apolitical, but a senior military officer said Ms Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy was suspected of trying to foment student unrest. Kyi Maung, aged 75, the league's vice-chairman and one of Ms Suu Kyi's closest confidants, was taken into custody by police early yesterday for interrogation.

An officer said he would be released soon. Amnesty International has called for his immediate release.

The students' three-hour demonstration at the Yangon Institute of Technology was sparked by the seizure of the three students after a row at a food stall on Sunday.

The minor incident prompted a number of precautions by the security forces in the capital, conscious that a tea shop brawl in 1988 sparked off the nationwide pro-democracy demonstrations which were eventually crushed by the present military junta.

The students demanded a public apology from the police station involved in the incident and broadcast corrections of what they said were inaccurate official accounts of the matter on Burmese radio.

"Members of the security forces had to control the situation by taking preventive measures so as not to let the peace be spoiled," the government said, rejecting the students' demands as impossible.

The junta said it arrested no one for demonstrating but accused Mr Kyi Maung and the students of attempting to ignite new unrest, mixing the affair up with politics — to confuse the workers and causing Ms Suu Kyi to try to inflame the affair.

Troops quickly replaced the crowd control barriers shutting off access to Ms Suu Kyi's home on University Avenue, Rangoon, which they had removed only on Monday night after keeping them in place for 10 days to prevent party members or the public gathering there.

Oil giant 'party to rights violations'

Paul Webster in Paris

THE Total oil company, in which the French government has a stake, was accused yesterday of condoning large-scale human rights violations in Burma, where it is building a natural-gas pipeline to Thailand.

The firm, which is 5 per cent owned by the government, said it was "scandalised" by the allegations of the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH) that it could be considered an accomplice in crimes against humanity by the Burmese military regime.

A FIDH report said the 400-mile pipeline, which Total is building with United States and Burmese companies, was the most important foreign-backed project in the country but had been condemned by the opposition leader and Nobel peace prize-winner Aung San Suu Kyi because it benefited the military government.

The FIDH chairman, Patrick Baudouin, said Total had become the political, moral and economic ally of "a barbaric government" responsible for the eviction of 30,000 people on the pipeline route, forced labour, summary exe-

cutions, rape and torture. FIDH alleged that Total had helped the Burmese army to repress the local Karen and Mon population by lending surveillance helicopters. It said Total's construction headquarters had become an armed camp protected by thousands of Burmese troops.

There was no immediate public government reaction to the allegations, which run against France's official policy in the United Nations where it sponsors motions condemning the Burmese regime.

Officials here pointed out that the pipeline contract was signed in 1992 but it was a long term scheme and there was no immediate financial benefit for the Burmese government.

Total denied using forced labour and said local contract workers were paid above the normal local rate. The company also said it was ready to demand visas for independent observers to check out the reports.

The involvement of the American company Unocal has been the subject of protests and calls for boycotts in the United States, but French law makes it possible to sue human rights lobbyists who organise economic protests.

The Guardian International & The Observer Briefcase



This multi-purpose bag, subtly branded with the Guardian International and the Observer logos, is made with a black heavy duty poly/canvas and is designed to hold everything you would carry in your attaché case. Expanding by 50%. Features include a strong zip revealing a rosy central section, fitted with many inner pockets and compartments.

To place your order please fill in the form below and send it to: The Guardian International/Observer Briefcase Offer, PO Box 355, Bushy, Herts WD2 2NA, UK with a cheque or money order for the full amount or fill in your Visa/Mastercard details.

Please send me Guardian International/Observer Briefcase/s £35.00; cost £_____ I enclose a cheque/money order for the sum of £_____ or please debit my Visa/Mastercard account.

Card No: _____

Expiry date: _____ Signature _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Country: _____

Please allow up to 28 days for delivery

Handwritten signature: JPK 10/20

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including "The Guardian", "News in brief", "Kool cigar you high fr", "Fury at 'monger", "SW threatens", "regation in K", "ish wedding c", "Africa promote", "anda boycotts", "Looking for the lowest premium?", "NONE FREE O".

دولتي في 1520

News in brief

Kool cigarettes 'keep you high for longest'

A 1972 memo by a Philip Morris scientist said focus group sessions suggested that Kool cigarettes were considered the best to maintain a high after smoking marijuana. The memo was uncovered as part of Mississippi's lawsuit against the tobacco industry to recoup the health care costs of smokers, said Ronald Motley, a Charleston lawyer assisting the state. It was written on Philip Morris USA inter-office stationery by AJ Udow, said by Mr Motley to be a company scientist. "A widely held theory holds that most people smoke for the narcotic effect (relaxing, sedative) that comes from the nicotine. The taste comes from the 'tar' (particulate matter) delivery. Although more people talk about 'taste,' it is likely that greater numbers smoke for the narcotic value," it said. The major tobacco companies that they manipulate the level of nicotine to keep smokers hooked. A lawyer for Philip Morris disputed the significance of the document. Mr Udow wrote that king-size Kool had the highest nicotine "delivery" of all king-size cigarettes then available and that it suggested "routes for us to follow to capture some of Kool's business." — Reuters, New York.

Fury at 'mongrel' comment

ETHNIC community groups in Australia yesterday demanded the dismissal of a mayor who calls the children of interracial couples "mongrels". The mayor of Port Lincoln in South Australia, Peter Davis, refused to retract his comments or alter his opposition to multiculturalism, despite the resignations of nine of the 10 town councillors in protest. "He really is espousing almost a Nazi approach because he regards white and black relationships as thoroughbred relationships and interracial relationships as mongrels," the resigned deputy mayor, Greg Anderson, said. Mr Davis insisted: "The consequence of miscegenation is a mongrel, by definition. If I am out of step with mainstream Australia then let's have a poll." — AP, Sydney.

Row threatens summit

BOLIVIA may have to cancel a regional development summit in December because of disagreement between the United States and Latin America on the focus of the talks, the foreign minister, Antonio Arambar, was quoted as saying yesterday. Bolivia's La Razón newspaper said the US and some other countries believed the summit should focus exclusively on the environment, while most Latin American countries wanted a broader discussion of sustainable economic and social development. Mr Arambar said the Bolivian president, Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada, had made it "very clear that the fight against poverty is an essential part of the concept of sustainable development". He said the issue might be resolved at this week's meeting of the permanent council of the Organisation of American States in Washington. — Reuters, La Paz.

Ecuador plane crash kills 24

A CARGO plane crashed in flames in the Ecuadorian city of Manabí, killing at least 24 people and setting fire to dozens of homes, officials said. The Boeing 707, belonging to the US company Million Air, burst into flames shortly after taking off for Miami with a cargo of frozen fish, lost altitude and hit a church bell tower. The plane plunged to the ground "like a ball of fire", a street vendor said. Radio reports said all three crew, believed to be Americans, were killed, along with 21 residents who burnt to death. At least 48 people were treated for critical burns, and the death toll could rise. — AP, Quito.

Segregation in Khartoum

KHARTOUM state has decreed strict sexual segregation in public, in line with its puritanical vision of an Islamic society. Under a decree approved by the state parliament and published yesterday, men and women cannot sit together in public and men may not watch women playing sports. Sportsmen cannot wear tight or short clothes which expose the chest exclusively on the environment, while most Latin American countries wanted a broader discussion of sustainable economic and social development. Mr Arambar said the Bolivian president, Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada, had made it "very clear that the fight against poverty is an essential part of the concept of sustainable development". He said the issue might be resolved at this week's meeting of the permanent council of the Organisation of American States in Washington. — Reuters, La Paz.

Lavish wedding criticised

SPAIN'S powerful Roman Catholic Church, in a rare public clash with the government, has attacked a senior government minister for staging a lavish wedding while Spaniards are asked to tighten their belts. The deputy prime minister, Francisco Alvarez Cascos, aged 49, a divorced father of four, married a law student aged 22 at the weekend in a high-profile ceremony which crippled the southern city of Córdoba as police escorted ministers and jet-set figures to the wedding. "We Catholic Spaniards would have preferred more respect and discretion," a spokesman for the bishops said. They also attacked the minister for remarriage, saying the second wedding was invalid in the eyes of the Church. The public rebuke sent a ripple through the smooth relations between the Church and the conservative government of José María Aznar, who took office in May after 13 years of Socialist rule. The opposition has criticised the conservatives for what it sees as a pro-Church bias. — Reuters, Madrid.

SAfrica promotes black judge

SOUTH AFRICA'S first black judge, Ismail Mahomed, was confirmed by President Nelson Mandela yesterday as the new chief justice. The appointment follows controversy over efforts by supreme court judges to secure the post for the most senior member of the appellate division, Henk van Heerden. The judicial services commission is believed to have voted 15-1 in favour of Judge Mahomed to succeed Chief Justice Michael Corbett, who retires next year. — David Beresford, Johannesburg.

Kaunda boycotts elections

ZAMBIA'S former president and now the main opposition leader, Kenneth Kaunda, said yesterday that his party would boycott the elections President Frederick Chiluba has called on November 18. Constitutional changes passed this year by a parliament dominated by Chiluba supporters block Mr Kaunda from standing for president, although his United National Independence Party (Unip) is free to take part. Mr Kaunda, president for 30 years three decades until President Chiluba ousted him in Zambia's first free elections in 1991, said neither he nor his party would take part. He urged Zambians voters to boycott the poll, which is not being held until three weeks after the five-year mandate of Chiluba's government expires, and said Unip would stage protest rallies even if the police banned them. — Reuters, Lusaka.

Looking for the lowest premium? Exclusive Road Atlas FREE with every quote. PHONE FREE 0500 333 600

David Hearst in Moscow reports on interior ministry action against the former security chief

Lebed may be prosecuted

THE bitter power struggle between President Boris Yeltsin's clique of advisers and his ousted security chief General Alexander Lebed took a turn for the worse yesterday as the interior ministry handed prosecutors documents which it said proved that the general was preparing to seize power. Gen Lebed has ridiculed these claims, but as a man who has lost his place in the president's administration and no longer holds a parliamentary seat, he has no immunity from prosecution. The claims centre on allegations by the interior minister, General Anatoly Kulikov, a long-standing rival, that Gen Lebed was mustering an army of 50,000, supported by

1,500 Chechen rebels. Gen Kulikov said Gen Lebed intended to seize power in a "rolling coup". The documents handed to prosecutors yesterday were those placed before an emergency meeting of security chiefs, headed by the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, last week. While confirming that there was truth in the allegation that Gen Lebed was forming a new unit — a fact which Gen Lebed himself does not deny — the prime minister said he doubted whether it was to overthrow the state. Meanwhile the prime minister has appealed to the security services not to become involved in the dispute generated by General Alexander Korzhakov's claim, in an

interview with the Guardian, that Anatoly Chubais, the president's chief of staff, has usurped power. The presidential press service made no reply to the suggestion by Gen Korzhakov, Mr Yeltsin's former bodyguard, that the president was too ill to exercise his powers. Mr Chernomyrdin told leaders of the Federal Security Service (FSB) that certain people were striving "to use the process of democratic reforms in the country to create extremist, militarised, terrorist and other formations". They posed a direct threat to state security. The prime minister did not mention Gen Lebed by name. All attempts to stop the mutual mud-slinging have failed, and if the prosecutor-general, the government's main law officer, formally investigates Gen Lebed, more incriminating counter-accusations against Mr Chubais are certain to follow. This might force the ruling elite to gather around the prime minister and form a coalition with the Communists, who control the Duma. The aim would be to oust Mr Chubais. Gen Korzhakov, who has backed Gen Lebed's attempt to become the next president, has said he supports the full transfer of presidential powers to the prime minister, who is constitutionally the president's stand-in, to be followed in three months by elections. So far Mr Yeltsin has refused to hand over his powers, although he has laid the



French hunters cull some of the 50,000 rabbits which overrun Charles de Gaulle airport, Paris; eating through electric wires and tunnelling under railways PHOTOGRAPH: MICHEL LUPCHITZ

Portillo warns Nato not to go soft Vranitzky, 'dead man walking'

John Palmer in Brussels THE Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, warned yesterday that cuts in defence spending combined with moves to turn Nato into a primarily peace-keeping body could leave the alliance vulnerable in "high intensity" conflicts. Addressing the Belgian Royal Institute for International Affairs in Brussels, he urged closer European collaboration in arms production, while opposing a defence role for the European Union. He said it would be wrong for Nato to imagine that all future conflicts would be of the kind waged in Bosnia or the Gulf. Twenty countries outside Nato now had ballistic missiles and 17 of the 53 identified world security flashpoints were within 200 miles of Nato's borders. After a 40-year nightmare of a divided Europe and cold war tensions, naturally our citizens and politicians are anxious to believe that the new era will offer us tranquility and assurance," Mr Portillo said. "It would be nice to be able to agree... I urge Nato not to be carried away by such thoughts." While there was much talk of adapting and reforming Nato for new missions, the alliance was only successful because its members were committed to hard defence and to maintaining the military capabilities needed to meet threats to national survival. "This is not the time for Nato to go soft, and certainly not to convert itself into an organisation mainly capable of peacekeeping operations." Pointing to the development everywhere of sophisticated weapons systems, he said Nato had to be prepared for much worse conflicts than those in Bosnia. "Future high intensity conflicts may be short and sharp," he said. "There will be no opportunity for us to generate conscript reserves or to manufacture new weaponry. We must plan on the basis that what you start with is all that you will get." Recalling that defence spending in real terms in Europe had fallen by almost a third since 1985, Mr Portillo warned of a widening gap between the military capabilities of the United States and its European allies. He called for closer European collaboration in arms procurement and added: "We must do better than we have done on [the delayed] Eurofighter."

He said he was "depressed" by the Maastricht Treaty review debate about future European defence and proposed to give the EU authority over the Western European Union. "Defence is a business where deeds count, not words. I hope that unrealistic talk of EU defence guarantees has now been set aside." He said he was worried about Russia's continuing military capability, but recognised the need to ally Russian concern about plans to enlarge Nato with members from the former Warsaw Pact countries. He also suggested the Baltic states and others might be able to join later. "Nato and Russia must build a real strategic partnership founded on substance," he said, adding that the Conventional Forces in Europe arms control treaty drawn up at the end of the cold war was likely to be reopened if former Russian allies join Nato. "There is a certain demology in Russia about Nato. We're asking them to work with their people to explain that Nato, through a very successful military alliance, is not an aggressive military alliance," he told the BBC. "I think the Russian troops who have been working alongside Nato troops in Bosnia understand that Nato is not a demon but... has helped to secure peace in the past."

Such elliptical conundrums contrast with the cheeky, scoundrel of Mr Haider, who is already speculating openly about a coalition government with the SPO after Mr Vranitzky goes. The two men's political careers have shadowed one another. They have shown a gut loathing for one another. In 1986, the year Mr Haider took over the Freedom Party, Mr Vranitzky became chancellor. He instantly dissolved the coalition with the Freedom Party to dissociate himself from Mr Haider. The standoff has continued ever since. Given a system of proportional representation which makes coalition government the rule, Mr Vranitzky's aversion to the far right is now tantamount to disenfranchising almost a third of the electorate. The social democrats, long used to monopoly rule in Vienna, are cobbling together a coalition with the Christian democratic People's Party. It is already being described as "the losers' coalition." Although the European elections put the social democrats ahead of Mr Haider and the ballot does not necessarily reflect what would happen at a general election, Mr Haider is clearly still soaring while the chancellor slumps.

Brundtland seeks new pastures

Jon Henley in Helsinki GRO HARLEM Brundtland, Norway's hugely popular prime minister, said yesterday that she was stepping down after dominating her country's politics for the past 15 years. The announcement gave rise to speculation that she may try to succeed Boutros Boutros-Ghali as secretary-general of the United Nations, a position with which her name has frequently been linked, although she has refused to be drawn on the subject. Ms Brundtland, aged 57, said that she and her minority Labour Party government would formally resign tomorrow to ensure a smooth handover of power before next September's elections, in which she intends to seek re-election as an ordinary MP. "It is time to make clear who will be at the helm of the country beyond this election, and possibly into the next century," she said. King Harald asked the Labour Party leader, Thorbjørn Jagland, to form the next government. Later Ms Brundtland told journalists that she had decided more than a year ago to step down before the Labour Party's annual conference in November.

"I have a good conscience," she said. "I feel I have done a reasonably good job for a number of years. At 57, one hopes to have many good years to work — I think there are many exciting things I could do." Her departure left rivals and observers mourning the end of an era. "She's been a mother to the country," said a leader-writer on Norway's main daily, Aftenposten. "She has no equal in our political system, and internationally she's been the best door-opener we've ever had." A medical doctor, Ms Brundtland was first elected to parliament in 1977, having already served three years as environment minister. She became the country's youngest, and first female, prime minister in 1981 and led three successive Labour governments from 1986, effectively wiping the Conservative Party off the political map. A fiery campaigner, she has also tasted bitter defeat, particularly when Norway voted by the narrowest of margins in 1994 not to join the European Union. She is best known internationally as a champion of women's rights — a record she won when her 15-member cabinet in 1986 — and environmental issues.

HOUSE INSURANCE SAVE UP TO 50% OR MORE. HILL HOUSE HAMMOND Cutting The Cost Of Your Insurance

We are much bemused
This session is about elections not lawmaking

JOHN MAJOR called it a meaty Queen's Speech. But it was not a dish to set before a Queen. It was overcooked scrag end of neck, a menu full of political cheap cuts, and inevitably there was not a mention in it of the only truly meaty question of our time, the beef export ban. With the election looming, the Conservatives have served up a reheated second-day dinner of well-chewed old themes, in which the only fresh ingredients were delivered courtesy of pressure from Labour and the Liberal Democrats, allowing the bills on stalking and the paedophile register to be taken in government time.
The simple reality of the new parliamentary session is that it is dominated by the election. That is not in any deep sense the Government's fault. It is the fault of a system which decrees that elections are now generally held in the spring and that parliamentary sessions start in the autumn. The consequence of that is that the first session of a full five-year Parliament tends to run for 18 months and that therefore the final session - in 1996-97 just as in 1991-92 - lasts for only six. The short final session will remain a fact of political life unless and until the sessional timetable is reformed. As it happens, Mr Major hinted yesterday afternoon that he favours such reform. But it's a bit late for that now.
As a result we are in for half a year or more of the sort of dispiritingly trite party squabbling that characterised yesterday's events in the Commons. Mr Major has opted for a legislative programme which emphasises key themes - crime, education, and welfare fraud - which he believes appeal most to Tory voters. These, along with the Budget in a month's time, are the ground on which he will fight. But it leaves out vast areas of political conflict on which the Conservatives feel more jittery and on which both Tony Blair and Paddy

Asdown concentrated yesterday. The beef crisis is clearly one of these. Mr Major said after Florence that the beef export ban would be lifted by November. But November is only a week away now, and there wasn't much sign of progress even before the new findings published by Nature magazine last night made an early lifting both improbable and undesirable.
Issues like this expose the fragility of the Government's new confidence. The Conservatives came back from Bournemouth in surprisingly good heart (surprising even to themselves), and were boosted by an opinion poll which showed a sharp cut in the Labour lead. They arrived at Westminster determined to put on a good show of unity. They kept it up for at least ten minutes into Mr Blair's opening speech. But then Mr Blair mentioned Europe and the Tory benches fell glumly silent - a sign that party unity on this sundering issue is much harder to maintain at Westminster than in a week by the seaside at conference time. Although there was an effective later counter-attack against Mr Blair on health spending, that is hardly going to worry Labour either, since they will always win an election fought on the NHS.
The really indicative event for the weeks to come, though, was the procedural about-face over the stalking and paedophile bills. The details, when in mid-debate the Government abandoned its plan to relegate these two issues to private members' bills, will mean little to anyone other than political insiders. What matters more widely is whether such a moment strengthens or damages the Government. It made the Government look silly for a day. But whether anyone beyond Westminster really cares is a moot point. There will be many more such days in the grinding political conflict on which we are embarked for the next six months.

The Great Lottery Robbery

If the Treasury wants the lottery boosted it can do it itself

FOR ALL its faults - not least the huge statistical odds against winning - the National Lottery still induces innocent dreams for millions of people every Saturday night while raising large sums for good causes (which the Government should be funding but won't). But that doesn't mean we need a second one on Wednesdays. There is obviously no law of nature stating that lotteries are fine for Saturday but not for Wednesdays as well. It's all a question of balance and perspective - a case of not allowing a hobby to become a habit. It's true that other countries like Ireland have a lottery twice a week thereby generating extra money for good causes without the moral fibre of the country being torn apart. But if the main point of a mid-week flutter (apart from yet more juicy profits for Camelot) is to raise more money for good causes then there are other ways to do this without turning us into a nation of lottery junkies.
For a start the Treasury should stop taxing the lottery proceeds forthwith. There was never a case to tax in the first place since most of the projects paid for by the lottery - especially the grand projects - are funded in enlightened countries out of tax revenues. To the extent that lottery income is a surrogate form of taxation it shouldn't be taxed at all. The Treasury claims that a 12 per cent tax is justified because people who buy lottery tickets would otherwise be buying something else that is taxed - so the Treasury

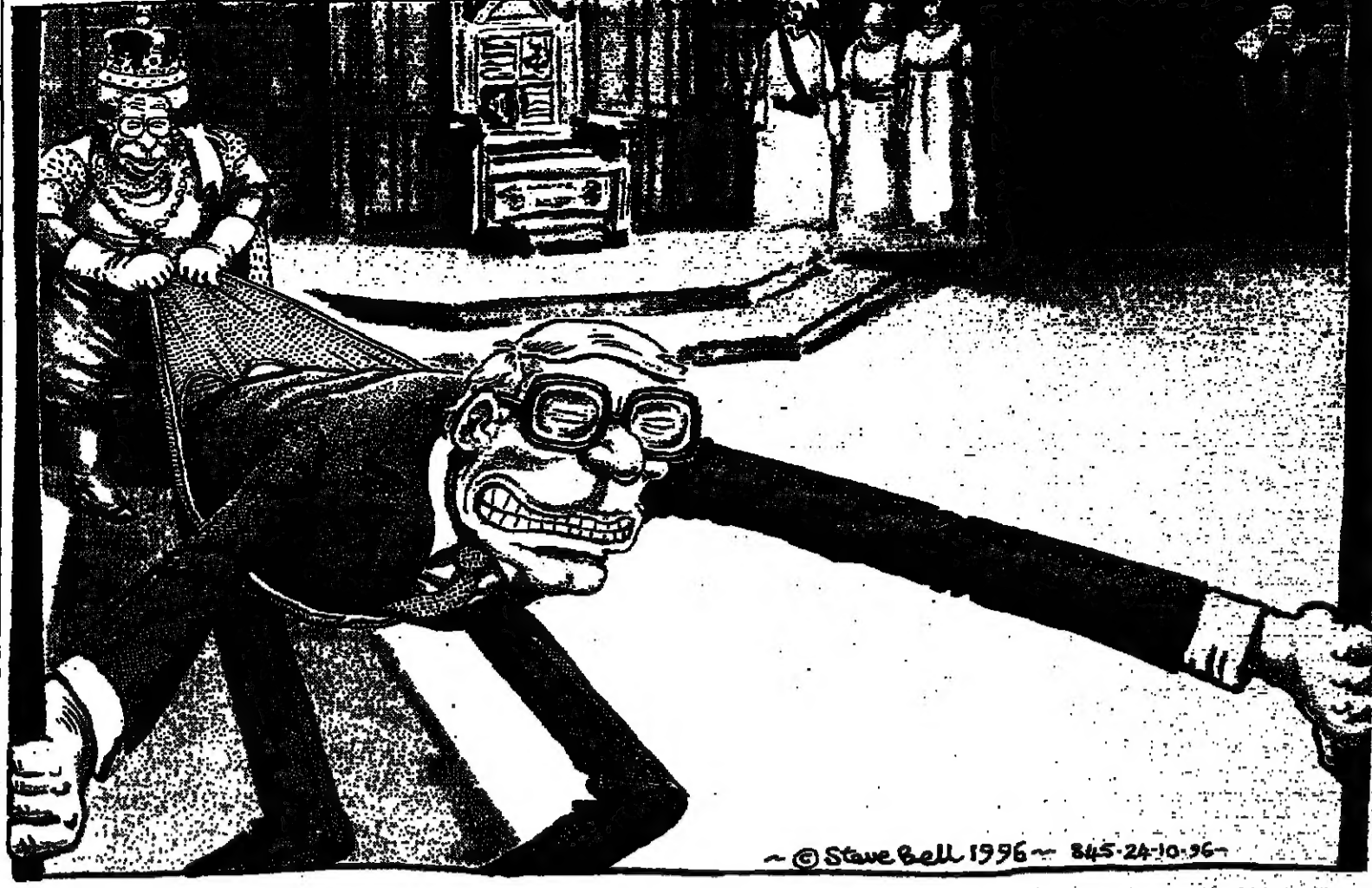
loses revenue. Phooey. That's only because of the myopic way the Treasury does its accounting. If the Treasury counted all the tax revenues it gets when lottery money is spent (and in subsequent rounds of spending) not to mention the beneficial long-term effects (like new sporting facilities reducing crime) then it wouldn't use such silly arguments. And has the Treasury ever counted the extent to which the public sector borrowing requirement benefits by several billion pounds from unspent lottery funds; and how the state's coffers have gained from the boost to premium bond income arising from the £1 million prizes introduced as a competitive response to the lottery?
The Government promised from the start that lottery funding would be "additional" and that it wouldn't load expenditure normally financed by the taxpayer on to the lottery. But it already has - notably in sports and the arts. If the lottery funds were boosted by up to 25 per cent by a mid-week draw the Treasury would be unable to resist the temptation to raid it again and again. The lottery is going to have a major impact on the artistic and sporting infrastructure of Britain and, less visibly, on charitable causes. It will almost certainly be the biggest - and quite probably the only - way in which posterity celebrates the government of John Major. And all the more so if he removes this utterly short-sighted tax in next month's budget. (But we don't advise a flutter on it.)

First Church of Thatcher, Kansas

This is one part of the export drive we can strongly back

TO MOST people in this country Kansas means three things: miles of cornfields, the Wizard of Oz (Kansas was where Dorothy wanted to get back to) and, for another couple of weeks at least, the state's long-serving Republican senator Bob Dole. Now we must add a new Kansas icon. At about the same time that Judy Garland first set off down the Yellow Brick Road, the young Margaret Roberts went to chapel in Grantham to imbibe the fundamentals of Methodism before setting off on her own career as the Iron Witch of the West. That chapel, improbably, has now been removed from England and has been lovingly reassembled in the prairie state.
Quite why Grantham Methodism, as so avidly practised by Alderman Alfred Roberts should appeal so strongly to the citizens of Kansas is a bit obscure. Lady Thatcher may have preached the necessity of hard work and balanced budgets,

but her record in office was a lot less virtuous than she or her acolytes like to pretend.
Perhaps the answer is that both Grantham and Kansas are places which (ante Thatcher) made surprisingly little impact on history. The most famous thing that anyone ever said about Kansas was Mary Ellen Lease's remark that Kansas should stop raising corn and start raising hell. There is a note of exasperation in that injunction which has been heard regularly this autumn as Republicans demand a more combative campaign from the lacklustre senator. Someone obviously thinks that by importing the chapel they can also import some of the conviction politics that were nurtured there. Let's hope that, unlike the denizens of Lake Havasu City in California and their ill-fated purchase of London Bridge they have got what they wanted. As far as we are concerned they are welcome to it.



© Steve Bell 1996 845-24-10-96

Letters to the Editor

An immoral crusade

AS THE teacher of a Year 6 class in a state primary school in Greenwich, I introduced a class charter (How the class of '96 switched off moralistic lectures, October 23). I asked the class what rules they wanted so that they could get on with each other and their work and emphasised that it was their class: they had to share the responsibility for organising it.
They came up with suggestions such as working quietly, no shouting, following instructions, no name-calling, no racist remarks. They agreed that there should be penalties for not following the charter, such as writing lines (thousands), missing play, missing games, going to the head teacher, and me writing to parents.
Rewards were also agreed: going to the head teacher for praise and writing to parents to tell them of achievements. A letter home was by far the greatest prize and was celebrated with biscuits on Friday afternoon.
The result wasn't paradise but it substantially improved the classroom atmosphere. A plea - fund primary schools property and enable them to tackle academic underachievement and social misbehaviour and alienation. It has much less chance of succeeding, and is more expensive, at secondary school.
Ann Hutchinson, 38 Sandtoft Road, London SE7 7LR.

WE welcome the Home Secretary's initiative to create a good citizenship award. Young people deserve every opportunity and resource to achieve development, a task best accomplished in schools rather than in the street.
Harassment, abuse, violence, exclusion from school, stop-and-search, mis-education, underachievement, male responsibilities, positive role models and mentoring all need to be addressed. And we require policies and programmes that support families in need, and that develop networks to sustain them.
Herman Ouseley, Chairman, Commission for Racial Equality, 10/12 Allington Street, London SW1E 6SH.

AM the only retired Church of England priest living in postal area S4, the part of David Blunkett's constituency which has the lowest proportion of professional or managerial people of all Britain's constituencies. Christians with money, good jobs, etc, live in S10, which has Britain's highest proportion of professional and managerial people.
As a disabled war pensioner confined to a wheelchair, I would like to ask your readers to give some thought and consideration towards our feelings, and to ask themselves who are the real beneficiaries from their donations.
I get extremely offended by the Royal British Legion inadvertently using me to get money under this false pretence. It would like your readers to believe that his help is freely available, that all one has to do is ask. This could not be further from the truth. We are required to go through an embarrassing and contentious application process to gain this help, regardless of whether it is forthcoming. It knows this outdated practice will bring about fewer applicants, consequently enabling it to spend more money on projects that are unrelated to helping disabled ex-servicemen.
When section 10 of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947 was introduced, the then Attorney General promised that

the pension to be paid to injured soldiers would be "as valuable to the soldiers concerned as any lump sum for damages which he might recover". Poppycock.
Your readers, especially those contemplating joining the armed forces, might like to know that a 100 per cent War Pensioner (the highest award) receives £106 per week in compensation, regardless of the severity of the injuries. He is then expected to approach service charities should he require something like an electric outdoor wheelchair that could make his life more tolerable.
Contributing towards the Legion, your readers are only subsidising government agencies and absolving them from the commitments made in the House of Commons in 1947. If the Royal British Legion really cared and understood the difficulties of disabled ex-servicemen, it would confront the Government and the MoD into honoring their commitment to give commensurate compensation to injured servicemen. It should also set up an appropriate welfare department staffed by qualified members who understand disabilities, and not employ insensitive retired Army officers.

Until the Legion starts treating us like human beings, I for one would like to see this yearly spectacle brought to an end. If your readers feel like making a donation towards a charity, may I suggest they try the Lottery; at least the organisers are open to public scrutiny.
Tom Campbell, 36 Kyles Drive, Garston, Watford, Herts WD2 6NT.

AS A teacher, I disagree with Mrs Lawrence's proposal. Incidents such as the stabbing of Philip Lawrence and the murder of the children of Dunblane are tragic but rare occurrences. It is precisely their rarity that makes them so talked about. Teaching citizenship would not have prevented one of these terrible incidents.
We live in a society that is perceived to be full of out-of-control mobs of delinquents. This is not true and citizenship classes will only heighten the national neurosis. Teaching citizenship will turn teachers into welfare or crime-prevention officers and take more responsibility away from parents.
Joanna Williams, 26 Berkeley Road, Birmingham B25 6NG.

FOR sheer hypocrisy, John Major's attempt to align himself behind Frances Lawrence's moral crusade has no equal (Moral crusade gathers pace, October 23). He and Margaret Thatcher have fashioned a society based on greed, selfishness, social inequality and abysmal standards. All those things which Mr and Mrs Lawrence abhorred.
Who will be the next Tory politicians to offer her their wholehearted support - Hamilton, Mellor, Parkinson? Tony Thorn, 4 Blackthorne Close, Bordon, Hampshire GU35 0TT.

PERHAPS our politicians can now enlighten us as to why they were so enthusiastic about turning a restful Sunday into a commercial one, and enforced, despite what they say to the contrary, some to work on that day who have no desire to do so?
T H Hook, 35 Nobles Close, Grove, Wantage, Oxon OX12 0NR.

WE welcome the Home Secretary's initiative to create a good citizenship award. Young people deserve every opportunity and resource to achieve development, a task best accomplished in schools rather than in the street.
Harassment, abuse, violence, exclusion from school, stop-and-search, mis-education, underachievement, male responsibilities, positive role models and mentoring all need to be addressed. And we require policies and programmes that support families in need, and that develop networks to sustain them.
Herman Ouseley, Chairman, Commission for Racial Equality, 10/12 Allington Street, London SW1E 6SH.

Some refuge

THE problems have scarcely begun for Steve Scully's asylum-seeker client, whom no-one can find to tell him of the restoration of his benefits (Letters, October 23).
Well before any such benefits were withdrawn, advisers asked the Home Office how homeless people were expected to know when they were being called for interviews or appeal hearings, or how they might pay fares to get there. My serene reply was that "the onus was on the asylum applicant to take whatever steps were necessary to comply with our procedures". People who fall to attend interviews or appeal hearings to get their benefits are less romantic but more accurate.
It was made clear from the start that some parts of the V&A's business were not open for filming. Modern Times



Nice caff, with a feud attached

SUSANNA White (Bang Goes the V&A, October 23) shows a lack of understanding of how organisations such as the V&A work. Even after spending the best part of a year with us, she seems no wiser, to judge from her comments. She seems to have blanked out everything which does not paint a picture of the plucky, daring, solo filmmaker doing battle with an obstructive, secretive, Mod-ern Times they should recede pour mieux sauter. It certainly never needed Keith Cooper's intervention to convince Alan Borg to put "the film on again". The lunch in question took place in late May, after filming was almost complete. Tracy Williamson, Victoria and Albert Museum, London SW7 2RL.

How to save the UN (continued)

YOUR EDITORIAL on UN reform (October 21) was timely. Britain's role, as a permanent Security Council member, is crucial - although, with our current EU neurosis, we seem to have forgotten this.
A top priority, starting with the "permanent five", is to draw up a job description and a list of agreed criteria by which the selection of the Secretary-General will be made. It is disgraceful that this has not happened and that all we have had is the US branding its veto of Boutros Boutros-Ghali.
High among the criteria must be the ability to mobilise public opinion by articulating the challenges which make the UN indispensable, and the confidence and skills to develop a proactive instead of a reactive agenda of action, and the experience and firmness to sort out a demoralised and too frequently introspective bureaucracy.
But nothing is more important in the light of recent history than to regenerate the UN's contribution to conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peace-building. Peacekeeping is not enough. To settle for that alone would be to reflect a counsel of despair.
Paul Eavis, Executive Director, Lord Judd, Senior Fellow, Saferworld, 33-34 Alfred Place, London WC1E 7DF.

A Country Diary

SPRATHDEARN: The red deer stag was roaring from across the strath but he was still difficult to find on the high slopes above the River Findhorn. Then, through the telescope, he came into view and I could actually see his mouth open although the sound took a few seconds to reach me. His harem was close by - 17 hinds and calves - but they were quietly grazing and ignoring the belligerent stag. Two other stags were sounding out their challenge from different parts of the strath and it was likely that this would be as far as it would go - vocal protests in the rut. Books may well talk of stags fighting to the death but most so-called battles are settled by roaring at each other or eyeing each other up at closer quarters although just occasionally fights will take place. Edwin Landseer's Monarch of the Glen was a fight of fancy as, in the red deer world, a matriarchy exists. Then, above the red deer, nine ravens suddenly

Britain's hungry hordes: charity begins at home

WE support Simon Maxwell's plea for serious commitment from the UK Government to the World Food Summit next month (This spread on a big table, October 16). Hunger and inadequate food intakes are not confined to so-called developing countries. We have worked as nutritionists in both south and north: the problems, while of a different order, are similar.
In our own country, those who beg for food or "spare change" on the streets are but the iceberg tip of increasing numbers who go without basics to keep their family together. These are people living on very low wages, or longterm on benefits, and especially where income sup-

poverty and the potential for relieving it at local and national levels. That potential is not great.
The World Food Summit is essential for generating action to address these trends in rich and poor countries alike.
(Prof) Prakash Shetty, Elizabeth Dowler, Carol Aldous, Human Nutrition Unit, London School of Hygiene, and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT.

Please include a full postal address and a telephone number. We may edit letters; shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

appeared. Playing in the wind, they rose up and tumbled down as if learning to fly for the first time. One raven landed and the others circled as if concerned although I could see no reason for this behaviour. Another raven strayed too far along a steep cliff face where a rowan was red with autumn colouring and suddenly, as if from nowhere, it was chased off by a peregrine falcon and made to return to the other ravens. The saying I know about ravens only goes up to three so I wonder what nine would mean: "To see one raven is lucky 'tis true - But it's certain misfortune to light upon two - And meeting with three is the devil." Ravens have always featured strongly in myth, and folk lore and have always been credited with the powers of prediction. When Macaulay visited St Kilda in the 18th century he wrote that, of all the birds, the raven was believed by the St Kildars to be "the most prophetic".
RAY COLLIER

Letters to the Editor

AS THE teacher of a Year 6 class in a state primary school in Greenwich, I introduced a class charter (How the class of '96 switched off moralistic lectures, October 23). I asked the class what rules they wanted so that they could get on with each other and their work and emphasised that it was their class: they had to share the responsibility for organising it.
They came up with suggestions such as working quietly, no shouting, following instructions, no name-calling, no racist remarks. They agreed that there should be penalties for not following the charter, such as writing lines (thousands), missing play, missing games, going to the head teacher, and me writing to parents.
Rewards were also agreed: going to the head teacher for praise and writing to parents to tell them of achievements. A letter home was by far the greatest prize and was celebrated with biscuits on Friday afternoon.
The result wasn't paradise but it substantially improved the classroom atmosphere. A plea - fund primary schools property and enable them to tackle academic underachievement and social misbehaviour and alienation. It has much less chance of succeeding, and is more expensive, at secondary school.
Ann Hutchinson, 38 Sandtoft Road, London SE7 7LR.

WE welcome the Home Secretary's initiative to create a good citizenship award. Young people deserve every opportunity and resource to achieve development, a task best accomplished in schools rather than in the street.
Harassment, abuse, violence, exclusion from school, stop-and-search, mis-education, underachievement, male responsibilities, positive role models and mentoring all need to be addressed. And we require policies and programmes that support families in need, and that develop networks to sustain them.
Herman Ouseley, Chairman, Commission for Racial Equality, 10/12 Allington Street, London SW1E 6SH.

PERHAPS our politicians can now enlighten us as to why they were so enthusiastic about turning a restful Sunday into a commercial one, and enforced, despite what they say to the contrary, some to work on that day who have no desire to do so?
T H Hook, 35 Nobles Close, Grove, Wantage, Oxon OX12 0NR.

AS THE teacher of a Year 6 class in a state primary school in Greenwich, I introduced a class charter (How the class of '96 switched off moralistic lectures, October 23). I asked the class what rules they wanted so that they could get on with each other and their work and emphasised that it was their class: they had to share the responsibility for organising it.
They came up with suggestions such as working quietly, no shouting, following instructions, no name-calling, no racist remarks. They agreed that there should be penalties for not following the charter, such as writing lines (thousands), missing play, missing games, going to the head teacher, and me writing to parents.
Rewards were also agreed: going to the head teacher for praise and writing to parents to tell them of achievements. A letter home was by far the greatest prize and was celebrated with biscuits on Friday afternoon.
The result wasn't paradise but it substantially improved the classroom atmosphere. A plea - fund primary schools property and enable them to tackle academic underachievement and social misbehaviour and alienation. It has much less chance of succeeding, and is more expensive, at secondary school.
Ann Hutchinson, 38 Sandtoft Road, London SE7 7LR.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'The Guardian' and 'Methy Norme'.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: 'JPL 201.520'.

Diary
Matthew Norman

THE delicate seduction of Rupert Murdoch by Mr Tony Blair needs a successful end: Mr Murdoch may not yet be lying on the bed, legs akimbo, an expectant smile playing about his lips, but he's certainly rolling down his tights, and the descent of his knickers may have begun. Evidence for this comes from news that last month, the Sun's political staff were preparing to celebrate Mr Blair's Conference speech when a personal intervention from the paper's owner persuaded them, very gently, to change their minds. What appeared in the article glowing with praise and adoration. This obviously bodes extremely well as far as the Sun's crucial election slant is concerned, since Mr Blair is being congratulated. It would be churlish, at such a moment of triumph, to point out that those who metaphorically go to bed with Mr Murdoch invariably land up (metaphorically) with a nasty dose of the clap.

I AM pleased to hear a fond recollection of Andrew Jessup from his days editing Scotland on Sunday in Edinburgh. The paper's then political cartoonist, Harry Horse, remembers strolling with the wee yin down Long Market Close, a Dickensian alleyway leading to the city's newspaper district, where the pair came upon a homeless boy, no more than 16. Far from unbellying when the boy held out his hand, Andrew became excited, turning to Mr Horse and delivering a tirade about the awfulness of professional beggars. "You'd never have thought that Andrew would one day emerge as a grunting light of the Big Issue," says Harry Horse. "Isn't it wonderful how people change?"

DESPITE a less infantile Conference than last year, it seems Defence Secretary Polly Portillo retains certain feelings about our European partners. German paper Der Spiegel reports on his visit to troops in Bosnia with German counterpart Volker Rube. Having refused to enter a Luftwaffe helicopter, marked with a Balkan Cross, Polly declined to fly with Herr Rube to Banja Luka unless the next stage, to Sijepo, was in a British chopper. Then he dismissed British hacks, lest they see him in a German helicopter, and finally, by way of a coup de grace, he refused to enter the German commander's Mercedes at the field hospital corps in Tragic, preferring the media scrum in a Land Rover. According to German Defence Ministry sources, Herr Rube - a rugby-playing public-school-educated anglophile whose children are at school here - was more amused than irked by Polly's silly antics.

IN the New Statesman, Lady Falkender writes to correct a few points in a previous piece by John Rentoul. And having corrected, she writes on (and on, and on), comparing the tiny underfunded staff serving Harold Wilson, who won in 1964, overturning a three-figure majority, and the one serving Mr Blair today. "Blair has a staff of 20, a large state subvention, as well as a Party Leader's Trust," she writes. "It would be a great surprise indeed if in private circumstances and with all those advantages, Blair were not able to overturn a majority of two." Ouch. Close students of Lady F suspect she has been influenced by her favourite Monty Python "sketch" since the 1970s. For four, half an hour before we went to bed, 26 hours working at a mill, father killed us every night when we got home, no bloody Mandy Mandelson and rapid rebuttal in my day...

FROM Hollywood comes what may be an important breakthrough in the fight against cellulite. "The secret of dealing with cellulite is to get rid of the overhead lighting in your bathroom," says Sharon Stone in Now magazine, "and use pink, low-level lamps instead." Ms Stone is alleged to be extremely bright, with an IQ well over 100. The FBI special agents are now thought to be investigating the actress on suspicion of unlicensed use of irony.

MY MUM SAYS CAN I BE EXCUSED MORALS?
This was the first morning of freedom for Sarah Holt, 20, and Sophie Bird, 22, the friends who had spent a week behind bars for contempt of court. What had they done to deserve it? They had refused to give evidence in court against Holt's former boyfriend, Alex Fryatt, who had beaten her to unconsciousness. They were afraid of what he might do to them, they said. The pair would not tell the court about Fryatt, who was formally acquitted of

Government going round the last bend

Commentary Hugo Young

THE Queen's Speech will strike many people as an insult to the country. Who are these ministers, gratifying themselves for the last time with the flummery of power? How can the dignified apparatus of monarchy be assembled once again behind the programme of a party that has lost the moral right, and will shortly lose the political authority, to govern?

quite a lot of Tories, and even some ministers, could be lured into this kind of thinking. They not only despised of winning but doubted their entitlement to do so. You could hear them muttering about the virtues of losing, of giving the other lot a chance to fail. In this, their emerging mind-set is different from what precedent says it should be. Six months before the 1994 election, after a previous unpropitious years of comfortable ascendancy, the Tories' psychology was as insecure as their programme was outdated. Harold Macmillan's central project, taking Britain into Europe, had collapsed, and the modernising of Tory philosophy was not assisted by the situation of the 14th Earl of Home. The party was living in another age. The fact that it still almost won is something else. Neither its leaders nor its members were equipped for the era then on the cusp of creation, and many of them knew it. Morally and politically, they were a broken lot. They had nothing to defend but their jobs. Present ministers are not so self-deprecating. The more they look at their record, the more they like it. Let us hear them out. The more they look at the Labour Party, the more they fail to discern the impending birth of any new era. The more reluctant they therefore are to hand custody of the era they have made into new and feckless hands.

They will say, and they have grounds, that they're presiding over a relatively efficient economy: inflation low, unemployment down, inward investment excellent, exports high, growth prospects good by comparison with neighbours and competitors. They've done this, they say, by modernisation and discipline. They've poured money into education and health; schools spending multiplied by nearly four in 17 years, NHS spending increased by more than 70 per cent. They've made utilities more efficient, and got to grips with the welfare crisis that engulfs the advanced world. All this is their own work, often bravely undertaken in the face of adversity. If they're let less capable people inherit it. They say, additionally, that these people will retard the country, all that Thatcherism has created, by prejudice and incompetence. Of this they are utterly certain. Inside government, the residents are confident they know what the Labour Party is really like.

You might be surprised to hear how completely the Cabinet disbelieves in Labour's true absorption of the meaning of Mr Blair's leadership, and how fervently it predicts the wreckage that will result from his arrival in Downing Street. They add certain specifics in particular about constitutional reform. This, they're sure, will come close to destroying government's capacity to attend to anything else, but then, if it is accomplished, will change Britain irreversibly and for ever: the prospect above all others that confers missionary status on their fight to keep power.

Twenty continuous years in office are an affront to the efficiency of democracy

ment can have the slightest chance of improving on the destructive inertia that passes for our European policy. The second reason is the corruption, intellectual and pecuniary, with which an unending period of power has infected Conservatism high and low: the general blindness to this condition, and its certain perpetuation in a fifth term. The third reason is the tritest and most important - yet also the one that's more likely than at once was to inspire the

politics of conviction in the present incumbents. No democrat, in a country with British-style democracy, can pretend that 20 continuous years in office for one party are anything but an affront to the efficiency of democracy. They guarantee not only the entrenchment of stasis but the absence of renewal from the gut-sapping business of trying to be a government that changes society for the better.

What this does not add up to, however, is a radical change of direction. If Labour is elected, the benefits will come much more from a new energy than a new course. This is important enough, but does not say that Conservatism as we know it is finished. Floundering for an answer to a decade's moral decline, the party of the status quo can hardly expect to have the best of the argument. But on the central issues, Labour has confirmed that Conservatism will live on. Its axioms about the nature of the status quo will be challenged, but few of its artefacts will be dismantled. Instead of being fuddy-duddy about to be swept aside by a new zealotry, ministers were first owners of the era that is and indefinitely will be.

A chance to atone for the folly of Suez



Richard Norton-Taylor

FORTY years ago tomorrow, the British cabinet agreed to what Foreign Office minister at the time, Anthony Nutting, described as "a sordid conspiracy in collusion with France and Israel". What this does not add up to, however, is a radical change of direction. If Labour is elected, the benefits will come much more from a new energy than a new course. This is important enough, but does not say that Conservatism as we know it is finished. Floundering for an answer to a decade's moral decline, the party of the status quo can hardly expect to have the best of the argument. But on the central issues, Labour has confirmed that Conservatism will live on. Its axioms about the nature of the status quo will be challenged, but few of its artefacts will be dismantled. Instead of being fuddy-duddy about to be swept aside by a new zealotry, ministers were first owners of the era that is and indefinitely will be.

moral and practical grounds. Among national newspapers, only the Observer took a similar stand. Labour gradually came round to oppose the Government, with Hugh Gaitskell, the leader, ending up a powerful opponent of the Suez escapade. The US, who effectively forced the withdrawal of British troops from Egypt by pulling the plug on sterling, was anxious about its future standing in the Middle East - comments since by US officials sound pretty sanctimonious in the light of the US invasion of Panama and the ousting of General Noriega in 1989. Sir Donald Logan, who as assistant private secretary to the foreign secretary, Selwyn Lloyd, participated in the secret meeting in Sevres, near Paris, where British, French, and Israeli officials signed the collusion protocol on October 24, 1956. He was in Parliament when Eden, answering a question from Nye Bevan, told MPs: "I want to say this on the question of foreknowledge, and to say it quite bluntly to the House, that there was no secret knowledge of the Israeli would attack Egypt. There was not." What was to be Eden's last statement in the Commons was a lie. Logan pointed out yesterday. Asked why he did not say so, Logan replied: "The idea that a civil servant should get up and say a minister had lied is a recipe for chaos and certainly disloyalty."

Parenting classes are no answer to our moral panic: they blame the mother for problems caused by lack of resources, argue Ann Oakley and Berry Mayall

Poor old Mother



MICHAEL Barber, Professor of Education at this institution, is wrong to suggest that the teaching of parenting skills can solve big problems in the education system. As an influential political adviser, Barber has been central in popularising the idea of parenting classes: something that politicians are now promoting, with home-school contracts, to solve our wider moral and social problems. Under Conservative social policies, responsibility for children's welfare - at home, at school and in the neighbourhood - has shifted too far from the public to the private. Mothers are being asked to solve problems caused by underfunding, and by the construction of environments too dangerous for

children to use. Children too are being required to shoulder the consequences of underfunding. The underfunding of families is indicated by the rise in child poverty since the early 1980s. A third of children live below official poverty levels. Serious social inequalities in health persist. And children from such poorly resourced homes are increasingly attending schools which lack basic amenities. Mothers are asked to contribute labour and resources, free, to essential school functions: raising money for books, working in the classroom. Education policies centre on the standardisation of childhood, and on the promotion of a particular view of family life. Competition between schools, fuelled by testing, produces a vision of the

"normal" child. Those children who cannot or will not conform (including those with special needs) form part of increasingly large classes. Prejudising the "normal" means excluding deviants - or teachers can't cope. As Barber acknowledges, there is no evidence that what he proposes will work. A better starting point is to consider what we already know about interventions which are effective in promoting their wellbeing. Early childhood interventions mostly tell mothers (not fathers) what to do. Stigmatising mothers as feckless is as old as state education, and based on the assumption that mothers are ignorant and uncaring. Most claims for effectiveness of mother-education are made on the basis of weak or non-existent evaluations.

But evidence shows that one of the most effective means of promoting positive educational, health and welfare outcomes for children is out-of-home care. This evidence doesn't fit the ideological position of the mother-blaming moral right, so it is ignored. A humane society would base policies for children and families on good evidence of effectiveness. Our does neither. Politically fashionable rhetoric, not facts, provides the basis for policy. Parent-support initiatives - such as the Newpin scheme reported in yesterday's Parents' Page - have no scientific basis for their claims to effectiveness: uptake is low among referred mothers, and many resist instruction in mothering. For there is irrefutable evidence that the main problem mothers face is inadequate

resources and a dangerous physical and social environment. Fathers are a problem. Where are they when it comes to the hard, routine labour of bringing up children? Where are the social policies that promote fatherhood and the state of degradation their opponents describe. They will watch to the bitter end while the economy improves, and hope the message gradually sinks in.

Where in all this is the child as active learner, as investigator, as partner with adults?

ular in the 1960s. Now mother-blaming is back in fashion, supported by pro-family rhetoric from left and right, and aided by a backlash against the 1970s move towards equal rights for women. A fundamental issue here is the status of children's rights. Barber wants children to work not only during the day, but in the evening too, to make up the deficiencies of the state education system. He wants parents and teachers to collaborate in forcing children to conform to school agendas. Where, in all this is the child as active learner, as investigator, as partner with adults in education? Where is the school as a democratic enterprise, enabling children to learn citizenship through participation? And where is the family as a democratic unit, with mothers and fathers equally responsible for what happens to their children?

Suez caused the Queen "a great deal of concern", according to Lord Charteris, her former private secretary. "She was personally worried about it. Lord Mountbatten (the First Sea Lord)... was against it, and he saw quite a lot of her..."

Sir Denis Smallwood, who later became Marshal of the RAF, has called the reasons given for the invasion plan as "utterly phoney" and "sick-making". Cooper says it was "sneaky and disloyal". Lord Hunt, Whitehall official at the centre of events who later became cabinet secretary, has described Suez as "a most terrible trauma". William Armstrong, a future head of the Civil Service, then a Treasury official, demonstrated his opposition by wearing a black tie for a week. Though only a very few knew the details of the collusion plan, many sensed something sinister was afoot. Others simply disapproved of the use of force. Sir Dick White, then head of MI6, opposed Eden's aim of replacing Nasser with a client regime. (Eden had told Nutting: "I want Nasser murdered.") The military (including this writer's father) were frustrated by the continuing change of invasion plans and delays for weeks. From the start, the Manchester Guardian, as it then was, strongly opposed the use of force against Egypt on

William Clark, Eden's press secretary, resigned quietly two weeks later, because - he said, 12 years later - Eden's actions had required him to depart from telling the truth. The only person who resigned at the time was Nutting. He described the collusion deal in his newly released book, No End of A Lesson. The Story of Suez, by Anthony Nutting (Constable, £9.95).

ALL the other participants, ministers and civil servants, placed loyalty to party or government above loyalty to their conscience. With the rare exception - Clive Ponting during the aftermath of the Falklands war, for example - they have continued to do so. We have only to look at the prevailing standards of political morality, and Whitehall acquiescence in official secrecy, to see the lessons have not been learned. Meanwhile, Nutting concludes his introduction to the new edition of his book with this appeal: "Alone, Britain clearly does not have the diplomatic clout to bring about an Arab-Israeli deal. But with her European partners she could do much to influence the course of events in favour of justice and peace. If only to expunge the folly and iniquity of Suez, she owes it to herself to try."

Contempt for the truth

Two women jailed for refusing to testify sold their story to the Sun. Sarah Boseley asks who should have protected whom

HERE they were, long blonde tresses tossed off their faces, red lips parted in a shriek of joy, clutching each other for the cameras - kneeling on a bed, of course, and with plenty of thigh showing. "Freed By The Sun EXCLUSIVE", crowed the headline. This was the first morning of freedom for Sarah Holt, 20, and Sophie Bird, 22, the friends who had spent a week behind bars for contempt of court. What had they done to deserve it? They had refused to give evidence in court against Holt's former boyfriend, Alex Fryatt, who had beaten her to unconsciousness. They were afraid of what he might do to them, they said. The pair would not tell the court about Fryatt, who was formally acquitted of

grievous bodily harm with intent as a result - but they spoke to the Sun, which bought the story. "Shaken Sarah told how obsessed Fryatt beat her up throughout their three-year affair, and once pinned her photo to a wall with a knife through the face," the story ran yesterday morning. Of the attack which put her in hospital for six days, she said: "I thought I'd die, the pain was indescribable. The last thing I remember is him lifting my foot and stamping on my face. Then I passed out." Had she said that in court, Fryatt would now be behind bars instead of being, as Mr Justice Benjamin Pearson said at Chelmsford Crown Court, "free to behave as he will, perhaps not to beat up your two, but probably beat up

someone else." At the Appeal hearing, which reduced their sentences from three and two months to one week, Holt was described as "a rather empty-headed, unsophisticated 20-year-old" by her QC, Alun Jones. Her silliness, he seemed to be saying, was her excuse - what more could you expect from a girl like that? After Fryatt had been freed, the pair were given Legal Aid by the judge and told to get representation in the contempt proceedings, because they could be jailed. Bird paid one visit to a solicitor, but failed to keep a second appointment. Holt, said Mr Jones, "hadn't bothered". She is too feeble, too unsophisticated, to go to a solicitor to get the matter sorted out. "They did not take the judge seriously." They spoke to family and friends and the general reaction was that the judge is just trying to frighten you," said Mr Jones. He was not - and

they should have known that. So should their elders. They are not stupid, but if ever two women embodied the black hole that is civic awareness and social responsibility today, it is Holt and Bird. Their behaviour displays an extraordinary lack of respect for the legal system, contempt indeed. They were afraid of Fryatt - of course they were - and had been intimidated by him and by his friends. But they did not tell that to the judge when he asked why they would not testify. Holt claimed she could not remember what happened - although she obviously regained her memory for the reporters from the Sun - and Bird said she was not sure it was Fryatt who had been seen. "If the true reasons had been given, the trial might have gone ahead," said Lord Justice Roch at the appeal. The women might not have had to give evidence - their statements could have stood alone. The Crown Prosecution Service was criticised for failing to realise that the women were scared, but Holt and Bird behaved as if they could just close their

eyes and the whole thing would go away. They went to see Fryatt in the cells, to a deal. If he promised to leave them alone, they would not testify. NEVER mind the legalistic wheels which were already grinding; many mind a wider duty to society to try to put a violent man out of harm's way. These two had an entirely self-centred view of the case, with fear to spur them on. They were Holt and him and nobody else. They are Thatcher's generation - they had no duty to society and they would not rely on it to protect them. It would be very wrong to suggest that terrified women must always testify against the man who beat them up. Many, such as Gazza's wife Sheryl, choose for their own reasons not even to bring a complaint against their abuser. But if parents no longer tell their children that they have a duty to tell the truth before the law, then perhaps it really is time for education in citizenship. Or should we just appoint the Sun as the highest court in the land?

Renewing your home insurance in October or November?

If you are 50 or over, just see how much you could save with Saga - call us NOW

You will know how expensive home insurance can be. Thankfully, if you are aged 50 or over you can benefit from SAGA Home Insurance - a superior household insurance that is only available to mature, responsible people like you.

SAGA Home Insurance can offer you genuine savings over other policies, while giving you cover that fully protects your home and possessions. The Saga Price Promise: If you find another comparable policy at a lower price within 2 months of taking out SAGA Home Insurance, we will refund you the difference.

SAGA
Services Ltd

Saga Services Ltd, FREEPOST 731
Middleburg Square, Folkestone CT20 1AZ

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to these companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE



- Insurance cover is comprehensive and low cost
- Discounts for home security
- Free pen with your quotation

Call us today
For your free no obligation quote simply call us on the number below. We will be pleased to answer any questions you have on SAGA Home Insurance.

0800 414 525
ref.GUO608

Lines open Monday to Friday 9am - 6pm, Saturdays 9am - 1pm

10 OBITUARIES

Matthew Harding

Fan who stumped up for Chelsea

MUST have first met Matthew Harding, who has died aged 42, late in 1993. This incredibly wealthy guy had been standing, unnoticed, in his jeans at the Shed End at Chelsea's Stamford Bridge ground...

He was 19 when he became an apprentice in Ted Benfield's re-insurance brokerage, working within the Lloyd's insurance market. It was a classic route, the office boy making the tea who by 1982 had become a director and six years later was borrowing £160,000 for a 23 per cent share in the company...

I had something to do with his decision to donate to the Labour Party, but for Harding, while the cash was upfront, he wanted to hand over something else, his skills. If the party can attract a man who offered money, a social conscience, and believed in wealth redistribution...

friendliest man in the world, Matthew Harding. That's the terrible tragedy about Matthew's death. Obviously, it was brilliant that he was piling money into the club, but beyond that, his intense and fantastically schoolboyish enthusiasm for Chelsea and all who sailed in her, has, over the last few years, spread around the place like an antidote to a long-established virus...

Football is a home for people with dodgy money, for whom the sport is a "business opportunity". Harding was utterly normal, a man without side, genuine, warm and that's why they loved him. He would joke that he was "worth a bob or two", but paid his taxes, earned his money.

Our paths to Chelsea were similar. We were both eight-year-olds when our fathers took us along to Stamford Bridge. In his case a decade after me in the early 1960s. It was, he told me, a match against Newcastle and from that moment, the boy from Haywards Heath was caught. But then came public school - Abingdon - which he left with one A level in Latin, and he told other old boys earlier this year, a sense of failure. But the visits to Chelsea continued, and later he presented a drink to his father at the Imperial Arms in the King's Road.

After the battles with majority shareholder Bates, his position seemed more secure, with his 27 per cent holding, and his chairmanship of the club. But there were, I suppose, always going to be differences between the two men. By the time of his death his City shareholding was estimated to be worth more than £150 million.

I have been with Matthew Harding at matches where Chelsea have got stuffed - but while I tend to get dark and morose about losing, Matthew didn't. Indeed, he cheered and sang, I suppose, a part of the drive and determination which fused into his business acumen.

Always, that is, until four seasons ago, when suddenly, everyone seemed to start smiling at Stamford Bridge from the refreshment stands to the directors box, and it was all down to one man: the



Signing on for life... Matthew Harding, the vice-chairman who remained a supporter at heart.

me, with a wink (he liked joking) that he had bought Matthew Le Tissier, then, after I'd finished punching the air, he showed me a little Matthew Le Tissier playing-card in his diary. "Here he is," he said, and laughed for about half an hour. But he really did want to buy Le Tissier (with his own money, for God's sake), because he really did want the club to be like it was, a playground for maverick geniuses, and so I am sure that it was Matthew who was instrumental in steering the management away from people such as Ian Porterfield towards Glenn Hoddle and now something I still find

somewhat hard to believe - Ruud Gullit. He was that very rare item in football, a director who's also a genuine fan, able to relate naturally to the ordinary long-sufferers who turn up there week in, week out. But Matthew went on, as he almost certainly would, to wrest overall power from Ken. He would've been perhaps the first-ever Chairman. I remember going to see Chelsea versus Man Utd at Old Trafford last season, and due to one thing and another, I ended up sitting in the United directors box. Halfway through the game, I shouted "bollocks" at one of the

linesman's anti-Chelsea decisions and was glared at so much by Martin Edwards, the Utd chairman, that I shut up immediately. Even when Chelsea scored, I bit my lip, I restrained myself: but Matthew, who was only about 10 seats along, stood up, shouting, screaming, waving at Dennis Wise, completely impervious to the etiquette of the directors box.

I sit in the West Stand at Chelsea, as the more expensive East Stand is basically atmosphereless. I have occasionally sat in the East Stand, though, because I knew that there, Matthew would seek me out, and I liked talking to him: it made me feel close to the heart of the club. And, when I say the East Stand is basically atmosphereless, it wasn't the seats around Matthew; his energy would subsume the Frank Delaney, and you'd never know you were in the East Middle Tier: where no one sings any songs. Me and 24,000 others - 32,000 when the new South Stand is built with his money - shall miss Matthew Harding, through the sun and rain.

Matthew Harding, businessman and football supporter, born December 26, 1953; died October 22, 1996

Charles Tennant

Heir who lost a fortune

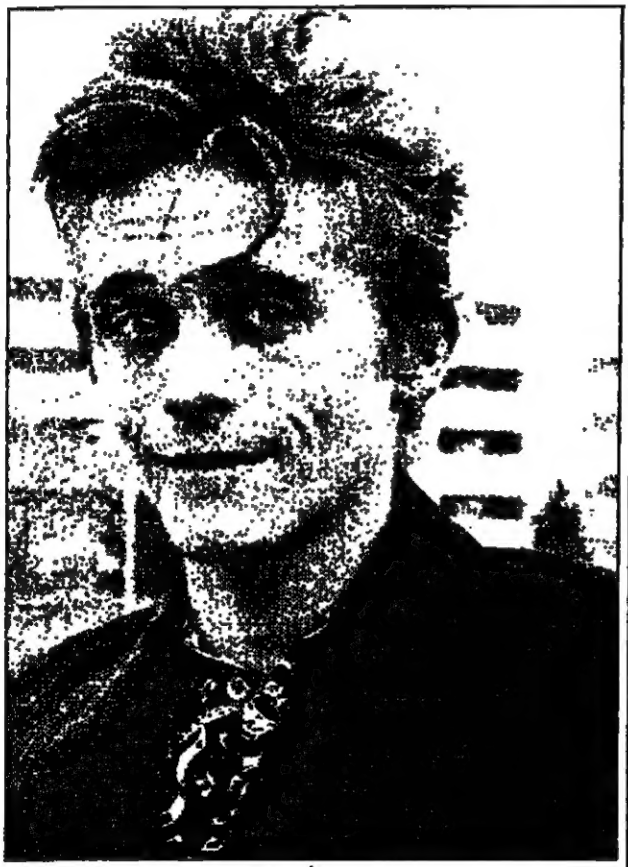
IT WAS a nightmare having a son like Charles Tennant, said his father Lord Glenconner, but "I never loved him any less". His son and heir, Charles, who has died of hepatitis C aged 39, had suffered from a long-term addiction to heroin which led Glenconner to disinherit him in 1978. Tennant conquered his addiction in 1993 but by then he had lost his claim to a £14 million family fortune, including a 9,000-acre Pembrokeshire estate and considerable tracts of land in Africa and the Caribbean. The Glenconner fortune largely derived from the industrial bleaching of linen during the last century.

settled a large sum on a charity for recovering drug addicts. It says something for Princess Margaret's fondness for the Glenconners that at Charles's 1993 marriage to Shelia Scott, a counsellor working with alcoholics, HRH stood at the front of the assembly and applauded his wedding speech.

Tennant also attempted to smuggle drugs through customs at Heathrow and stole the family silver to fund his heroin habit. In an attempt to straighten him out, his family sent him to sheep farms in Scotland and Australia, but it was not until 1990, after the death of Henry, that he really began to tackle his heroin habit.

Henry's death from Aids and the involvement of the youngest son, Christopher, in a motorcycle accident which left him partially disabled fuelled talk of a "curse on the family" afflicting the family, though Charles blamed it on a pattern of behaviour which he believed could be broken.

After leaving school, Tennant played the role of a rich and privileged man about town, but was attracted to the rock and show business scene and in 1978 was one of the founders of a magazine, Chelsea Scoop, for which he interviewed Andy Warhol. Good looking, he was also phot-



Tennant... conquered addiction and became a fund-raiser

graphed by Robert Mapplethorpe as the Chanel model Stella Tennant, as part of their campaigning work. Tennant was recently convicted of assaulting two policemen with a gun, but escaped a prison term. Charles Tennant is survived by his wife and a young son.

Gary Putsifer

Charles Edward Peversey Tennant, aristocrat, born February 15, 1957, died October 22, 1996

hoped to involve Charles's cousin, the Chanel model Stella Tennant, as part of their campaigning work. Tennant was recently convicted of assaulting two policemen with a gun, but escaped a prison term.

Charles Tennant is survived by his wife and a young son.

Gary Putsifer

Charles Edward Peversey Tennant, aristocrat, born February 15, 1957, died October 22, 1996

Wang Li

A revolutionary out of his depth

WANG LI, who has died aged 77, had his finest day on July 22, 1967, at the height of the Cultural Revolution. With his foot in plaster, he was greeted by almost the entire Chinese leadership at Peking airport, after winning a fierce battle between rival Red Guard factions in the central city of Wuhan. He had scored a revolutionary victory: the banners proclaimed, against the dogs' head counter-revolutionaries.

Six weeks later, when his "ultra-left" faction was itself condemned as counter-revolutionary, Wang was denounced as a traitor against Chairman Mao. Confused? So were thousands of Red Guards who took their lead from him: famously, one group had seized control of the Foreign Ministry and stormed (setting on fire) the British chargé d'affaires' office in Beijing.

Wang did not exactly have "revolution" written on his face. Nancy Milton, a foreign "polisher" of official documents at the Chinese news agency, described him as a handsome man, "stout in his khaki padded overcoat, his suave banker's appearance emanating strangely out of place amid the admiring swarms of excited Red Guards."

No youthful worshipper himself of the Red Sun, Wang was one of a group of middle-aged ideologues who took Mao's side against the Communist Party bureaucracy for mixed reasons. Like many leftwing intellectuals, the ideologues were attracted by Mao's idea of building communism at full speed - even if the country was not ready for it. Joining Mao's camp also protected them from being labelled "bourgeois scholars".

Born to a property-owning family in the central province of Jiangsu, Wang joined the Party in 1938 and worked his

way up the national hierarchy of propaganda departments. By the early 1960s, he was helping to produce anti-Moscow polemics as part of the bitter Sino-Soviet dispute. Wang was closely connected to the mayor of Beijing, Peng Zhen. But when Peng became the first target of the Cultural Revolution in the spring of 1966, Wang made a quick switch to the Maoist camp. The ultra-left excesses of this camp led to the first split a year later. Mao's wife Jiang Qing and her group (who were later known as the Gang of Four) gained political space by ousting Wang's clique. Wang was accused of seeking to undermine Premier Zhou Enlai. Jiang Qing had exactly the same intention but went about it more circumspectly later on.

Wang's downfall came about through two errors. Mao personally criticised his speech encouraging the Red Guards to seize the Foreign Ministry; the Chairman knew that revolution must be kept within the family. Wang also erred by sponsoring a controversial play, *Madman of a New Age*. Its real-life hero was a young man who after denouncing Mao's main rival,

Liu Shaoqi, had been certified as mentally ill. Wang claimed that the unfortunate patient was a political dissident suffering from "fascist persecution". Whether the claims could be substantiated or not was never discovered; but it was foolish of Wang to get involved in the theatre which was, as everyone knew, the domain of ex-film actress, Jiang Qing.

In 1967 Wang was imprisoned. He spent the next 15 years in jail without being charged with a crime. Outside, Mao died, others rose and fell - including eventually the Gang of Four.

Wang emerged in 1982 to rejoin his wife, filling more than 100 petitions for rehabilitation by the Party. Wang denied that he had ever encouraged violence and claimed to have been the scapegoat for the chaos which almost destroyed China in mid-1967.

He also claimed to have helped Deng Xiaoping write a letter of "self-criticism" which saved him from the fate of Mao's main rival, the head of state Liu Shaoqi, who was beaten and died in prison.

Recently Wang claimed that Deng was prepared to rehabilitate him, but that other leaders objected.

He spent his last years in Shanghai where he was said to live comfortably in a spacious house in Shanghai - with a red carpet.

Wang said that he would like the secrets of his brief period of fame to be a mystery. Revolutions have a habit of getting hijacked by the ambitious and the amoral. Wang may have looked "naive", but he was out of his depth.

John Gittings

Wang Li, politician, born 1918; died October 21, 1996

Birthdays

Sir John Aysc, former director, GCHQ, 57; Nick Ainger, Labour MP, 47; Phil Bennett, former rugby player, 46; Luciano Berio, conductor and composer, 71; Ian Bishop, West Indian cricketer, 28; Peter Chenery, secretary, British Council, 50; Prof George Crumb, composer, 67; Barry Davies, sports commentator, 56; Jonathan Davies, rugby league player, 34; Sir Robin Day, former TV presenter, 73; Frank Delaney, writer and broadcaster, 54; Prof Peter Gellhorn, composer, conductor, 64; Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Staff, 58; Sir Ralph Halpern, former chairman, Burton Group, 59; Wally Herbert, Arctic explorer, 82; Prof Dame Elizabeth Hill, Slavonic language specialist, 96; Sena Jurinac, soprano, 75; Kevin Kline, screen actor, 49; Reg Kray, gangland criminal, 63; Philip McLean, ambassador to Cuba, 58; Adrian Mitchell, poet, 64; Sir Fred Pontifex, holiday camp founder, 90; Prof W Lindford Rose, psychologist, 82; Piers Rogers, secretary, Royal Academy of Arts, 52; Allan Rogers, Labour MP, 64; Sir Robert Sainsbury, grocer, 90; Jane Stern, American writer, 55; Paddy Tipping, cricketer, 47; Mark Tully, former BBC correspondent in India, 61; Malcolm Turnbull, Spycatcher lawyer, chairman of Australia's Republic Advisory Committee, 42; Paul Vaughan, radio journalist, 71; Bill Wyman, former Rolling Stones bass player, 55.

Death Notices

CAMERON, James (last name), aged 95 years, on October 20, 1996. He was the beloved husband of Elizabeth and the father of three children. He was a member of the Church of Scotland. The funeral will be held at St Andrew's Church, Leith, on Monday, October 28, at 11.00. Flowers or donations to the Edinburgh Hospice, 100, Colinton Road, Edinburgh, would be appreciated. Tel: 011 228 1955.

HOURTON, Frederick of Haverhill, Marie Curie Centre, Glasgow on Monday 21st October 1996. He was a devoted husband and loving father. He was a member of the Church of Scotland. The funeral will be held at St Andrew's Church, Leith, on Monday, October 28, at 11.00. Flowers or donations to the Edinburgh Hospice, 100, Colinton Road, Edinburgh, would be appreciated. Tel: 011 228 1955.

When it was pointed out to him that play was unlikely in the downpour and, moreover, that the bus would have taken him in the opposite direction to the one he wanted, Ken was not in the least put out. All Ken's friends were disappointed not to see so much of him at cricket since his retirement from the Guardian library. We assumed that

Letters

David Silverman writes: Ken Murphy (obituary, October 9) played cricket into his sixties. The quirkiness we all so much loved in him was nicely revealed when, with full cricket gear at the ready, he was seen waiting in the rain outside Lord's for a bus to take him to play in Regent's Park.

When it was pointed out to him that play was unlikely in the downpour and, moreover, that the bus would have taken him in the opposite direction to the one he wanted, Ken was not in the least put out. All Ken's friends were disappointed not to see so much of him at cricket since his retirement from the Guardian library. We assumed that

it suited Ken's sense of humour to visit Lord's in his employer's time but not in his own.

Alma Cullen writes: We who were child-rearing mature women students at Liverpool University 20-odd years ago, still rarities in those days, have reason to be enormously grateful to our professor

of English Kenneth Muir (obituary, October 4). Not only did he welcome us into his department but also into a wonderfully fruitful engagement with English literature - this in spite of the reservations of some members of his staff. I think we all repaid his faith in us and I, who have no A-levels, now have two university degrees.

Jackdaw



A dog's life

EXCLUSIVELY handcrafted for the Parness Collection, these exquisitely designed beds for cats and dogs are replicas of those manufactured in 18th century France for the pets of the aristocracy and royal families. Every detail is scrupulously checked for authenticity - woodwork is finished in pure gold leaf, and fabrics reflect original designs from the period. In two styles: the plumed pet bed is made of imported silks with four hand-carved and cast pineapples, painted in gold leaf and accented with hand-curled ostrich feathers and silk pompoms. It measures

approx. 36 x 31 x 48. The pet mansion, shaped like a neoclassical building, is hand-painted in pure gold and features an interior green velvet cushion, domed top with ball finial, three circular windows, curved break front facade, and a rear hinged door. Measures approx. 54 x 43 x 58. Both limited editions, destined to be heirlooms of the future. Plumed bed \$7,150.00. Neoclassical pet mansion \$8,400.00.

A snip of the price. Advertised in the American mail-order catalogue from Neiman Marcus. Thanks to Sophie Grillet.

Redneck rules

DINING OUT: If drinking directly from the bottle, always hold it with your fingers covering the label. Remember to leave a generous tip for good service. After all, their mobile home costs just as much as yours. Entertaining in your home: Be considerate of your guests. Point out in advance where the injury-threatening springs are located on the sofa.

If your dog falls in love with a guest's leg, at least have the decency to leave them alone for a few minutes. Dating (Outside the Family): Be aggressive. Let her know you are interested. "I've been wanting to go out with you since I read that stuff on the men's bathroom wall two years ago."

Establish with her parents what time she is expected back. Some will say 10.00. Others might say "Monday". If the latter is the answer, it's the boy's responsibility to get her to school on time. If a girl's name does not appear regularly on a bathroom wall, water tower, or an overpass, odds are good that the date will end in frustration. Even if you can't get a date, your reputation.

Theatre etiquette: Refrain from talking to characters on the screen. Tests have proven they can't hear you. Weddings: A bridal veil made of window mesh is not only cost-effective but also a proven fly deterrent. For the groom, at least rent a tux. A leisure suit with a cum-

merbund and a clean bowling shirt can create a natty appearance. Though uncomfortable, say yes to socks and shoes for this occasion. Driving etiquette: Dim your headlights for approaching vehicles, even if the gun is loaded and the deer is in sight. Never relieve yourself from a moving vehicle, especially when driving. Do not remove the seats from the car so that all your kids can fit in.

Tips for all occasions: The socially refined never fish coins out of public toilets, especially if other people are around. If you have to vacuum the bed, it's time to change the sheets. Personal hygiene: Unlike clothes and shoes, a toothbrush should never be a hand-me-down item. While ears need to be cleaned regularly, this is a job that should be done in private using one's OWN truck keys.

Etiquette redneck-style from the Deviant Listserver. Bill Spring. Spider catch BEWARE - one of your halloeen-party-throwing

friends might actually insist on costumes this year. Try to avoid this year's obvious choices: the slimy alien from Independence Day; either presidential candidate; the much-loathed Lizzy mascot from the Olympics; and for the second year in a row, the easy-to-impersonate Osama bin Laden. (Or rather his police sketch - all you need is a hood, cheesy aviator shades, and a flinky moustache.) For an easy, inconspicuous last-minute costume, wear all black clothes and attach one end of a fishing line to the doorknob as you arrive at the party. Let the line gradually unspool as you move around the room. When ensnared and irritated guests demand to know what your costume is, explain: You are a spider.

US Esquire with suggestions for Halloween. Bears dressing as a witch.

Chicken chat

ANDERSEN CONSULTANT: Derivation of the chicken's side of the road was threatening its dominant market position. The chicken was faced

with significant challenges to create and develop the competencies required for the newly competitive market. Andersen Consulting, in a partnership relationship with the client, helped the chicken by rethinking its physical distribution strategy and implementation processes. Using the Poultry Integration Model (PIM), Andersen helped the chicken use its skills, methodologies, knowledge capital and



experiences to align the chicken's people, processes and technology in support of its overall strategy within a Program Management framework. Andersen Consulting convened a diverse cross-spectrum of road analysts and best chickens along with Andersen consultants with deep skills in the transportation industry to engage in a two-day trinary of meetings in order to leverage capital, both tacit and explicit, and to enable them to synergise with each other in order to achieve the implicit goals of delivering and successfully architecting and implementing an enterprise-wide value framework across the continuum of poultry cross-media processes.

The meeting was held in a park-like setting enabling and creating an impactful environment which was strategically based, industry-focused, and built upon a consistent, clear, and unified market message and aligned with the chicken's mission, vision, and core values. This was conducive towards the creation of a total

Emily Sheffield

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 771-713 4386; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3BP.

Special offer... Notebook... Rising... are slipping... Customers can... Tyneside... ducks... trend... as it... lives for... today... Berlusconi... Advertisement for various products and services, including a notebook, a pen, and a book.

Handwritten text: 09/21/2015

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Notebook

Rising oil prices are slippery stuff



Edited by Mark Milner

THE rising oil price has been, for the last few weeks, a buy-the-pound sell-the-yen sort of story. Fair enough. Britain has barrels of the stuff, Japan imports a lot.

The effects of the price rise, however, are now spreading a little wider. Motorists will have noticed what is happening to forecourt prices. Yesterday the Dutch airline KLM announced that it was slipping surcharges on ticket prices to compensate for rising fuel costs — an indication, perhaps, that it expects to have to live with more expensive fuel for some time.

Dealers in financial markets other than the oil and foreign exchanges are also taking note. The oil price in German marks is up by more than 25 per cent so far this year. Some analysts reckon higher oil costs could add one

half of one per cent to the consumer prices index.

Germany's National Statistical Office revealed yesterday that import prices were up 0.7 per cent last month, the biggest monthly rise since last October. It is all very well to say that, stripping out what happened to oil — up by more than 8 per cent over the month — the return looks less threatening. But then stripping out the effect of the OPEC shocks would have made the 1970s look rather less inflationary, too.

Of course what is happening now is hardly in the same league — but it might be enough to make bond markets and the Bundesbank take note. The governor of the Bank of France, Jean-Claude Trichet, argues that Europe has reason to favour a stronger dollar. But with oil priced in the US currency the Bundesbank will not want

such a view taken too far. The Bundesbank's favourite barometer of inflation, M3, is already running above its target range. Higher oil prices can only increase its nervousness. That does not signal a rise in German interest rates, but it should give those hoping for just one more cut cause to ponder.

That will disappoint those of Germany's European partners who were hoping lower rates might just help with the very tricky budget arithmetic required in the run-up to single currency qualification.

Count Africa in

NOWHERE is the rhetoric of globalisation less relevant than on the continent of Africa. Far from rising with a worldwide tide of prosperity,

many African countries are stuck in reverse gear as population increases eat up their economic growth.

Africa accounts for just 1.7 per cent of world exports, while sub-Saharan African countries have a miserly 0.6 per cent of the market.

Yesterday's launch of an Alliance for Africa's Industrialisation is an attempt to speed the continent's entry to the industrialised world.

Leaders of the cutting-edge nations — including Uganda, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana — know that aid budgets in the West are under pressure, and want to emulate the rise of the Asian so-called "tiger" economies.

But Africa faces three obstacles to repeating the trick. First, the continent's borders were drawn arbitrarily by imperial draughtsmen whose work has too often left a bitter legacy.

Secondly, as the African adviser to Unilever, Kande Yunkella, points out, many of the poorest countries lack the necessary institutional and intellectual capacity to drive forward a successful industrialising vision. By contrast Asia's tigers invested heavily in education.

Last, but not least, many African nations face high tariff barriers against selling to richer countries, mostly designed to protect Western farmers from cheaper Third World produce.

Sensible African leaders are determined to become less reliant on aid hand-outs from the north.

Certainly trade, rather than aid, is the best remedy — though there will remain a need for aid to help increase the continent's intellectual and technological capital. Globalisation has its problems but it has its benefits

too. It should not be allowed to pass Africa by.

Wired and fired

ASIGN of the times. Workers at a Havant factory learned that their jobs were being axed... from the Internet.

Arizona-based Adflex Solutions posted its report and accounts on its web site during US working hours. Eagle-eyed UK employees surfing the net found out from the report that the company intended to switch manufacturing from Havant in Hampshire to Lamphun in Thailand at the cost of 230 jobs.

The company said it had failed to take account of the time difference between the US and the UK. So much for the global village.

Customers can pay...

...but won't pay more

Tyneside bucks trend as it 'lives for today'

Peter Hetherington

CROWDS were trailing past George McDonald's office by the thousand in the Indian summer of a Tyneside half-term. "This is another super week," proclaimed the manager of Newcastle's Eldon Square shopping centre as he totted up what retailers call the foot flow. "An awful lot of money is changing hands," he said.

He calculated that yesterday over 50,000 had passed through the complex of almost 150 shops which dominates the city centre. After a busy weekend, Mr McDonald predicts that his seven-day flow will top 500,000.

Annually, at least 40 million visits are made to the city centre shops at Eldon Square and the busy thoroughfare of Northumberland Street, and £1.4 billion is spent.

Add to that the MetroCentre edge-of-town shopping mall a mile across the river in Gateshead, with its weekly foot flow of 530,000, and you can soon appreciate that retailing — not the traditionally dominant heavy engineering sector — is now the mainstay of the Tyneside economy.

The Northern region, which embraces Tyneside, has the highest unemployment rate of mainland Britain, with an official jobless rate of one in 10. Yet 80 per cent are in work — and they spend like mad.

Recently the Property Managers Association named the MetroCentre as the most successful British shopping location for turnover, ahead of London's Oxford Street, Lakeside at Thurrock, and Meadowhall in Sheffield.

Eldon Square, and Northumberland Street — separately listed in a league table — were eighth and 10th respectively.

"We always buck the national trend up here," said the manager of one of the firm-sized stores. "People around here believe in enjoying themselves, living for today."

No one talks of a down-



Sales lift... 'Olympic shoppers' of the North-east at the MetroCentre, Gateshead, which is continuing to prosper, despite high unemployment. PHOTOGRAPH: DON MCPHEE

turn in trade, with autumn booming after summer and takings well up on last year.

"There is a bottomless pit in the North-east called the pocket," said John Bryson, manager of the MetroCentre since it opened 10 years ago.

"We carried on through the early 1990s as if there

was no recession and just kept going.

"There's a large amount of disposable income around here — lower cost-of-living and lower mortgages. They're Olympic shoppers. Always have been."

Barry Turnbull, who is on a two-year secondment from Marks & Spencer as

city centre manager in Newcastle — a link man between the council, government agencies, and the retailers — does not underestimate the horror of unemployment.

"Clearly if you don't have a job — and a significant number don't — life is not easy. But people in work really enjoy life."

Berlusconi ruling boosts SFO

Don Adams

AHIGH Court ruling yesterday in a case involving Italy's former premier Silvio Berlusconi has cleared the way for Serious Fraud Office investigators to crack open the secrets of London's huge offshore-company industry.

The judgment gives the green light for SFO inquiries

on behalf of police and other authorities around the world.

"London is at the hub of a large wheel," said an SFO source. In many frands, he added, "everything leads to London."

Two judges ruled that the SFO had been within its rights last April to raid a London business office and seize 15 bundles of documents even though it is not investigating any allegations of Berlusconi-

related offences in this country.

The SFO believes the verdict will make it more difficult for international fraudsters to hide behind offshore entities run by remote control from British companies.

Lawyers argued on behalf of the media-magnate and entrepreneur that allegations of bribery and fraud against him formed part of a power struggle in Italy and therefore Mr Berlusconi was facing "political" charges with which the Crown should not get involved.

They argued also that the raids had represented a "fishing expedition" rather than a hunt for specific evidence and was thus not authorised by Parliament when it allowed

the SFO to co-operate with foreign authorities.

Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Gage rejected these arguments. "I do not accept for one moment that the Italian magistracy's desire to expose and punish corruption in public and political life... operates to transform the present offences into political ones," Lord Justice Brown said.

Because of the legal challenge, none of the documents have yet been forwarded to Italy. A final ruling tomorrow is expected to release them for use by investigators in Milan.

Yesterday's judgment also clears the way for the SFO to question a number of people under its Section 2 powers.

Shoppers rebel

Richard Thomas
Economics Correspondent

FEARS of a 1980s-style runaway boom on the high street eased yesterday after the release of figures showing slackening retail sales growth and stiff consumer resistance to higher prices.

Sales volumes dipped by 0.3 per cent last month after posting a bumper 0.9 per cent rise in August, according to data from the Office for National Statistics. Over the year to September, sales grew by 3.5 per cent, against 4.3 per cent the preceding month.

City analysts welcomed signs of cooling sales, which they said reduced the chances of a rise in interest rates after the monetary policy meeting next Wednesday between the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, and the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George.

David Coleman, UK economist at brokers CIBC Wood Gundy, said: "Mr Clarke should now have sufficient cause to forestall the Bank of England's campaign for higher rates."

Signs that the German Bundesbank was set to leave rates on hold added to the trading floor view that the Chancellor would stick with a policy of "steady as she goes".

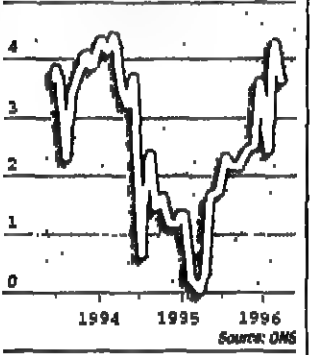
Market-watchers were also cheered by signs that attempts by shops to raise prices had been rebuffed by shoppers. Clothing and footwear stores raised prices by a record 5.7 per cent in September — resulting in an immediate 3 per cent fall in sales.

David Bloom, an economist at James Capel, said: "The consumer continues to operate guerrilla tactics, reacting in a price-conscious way. This bodes well for the inflation environment."

The Treasury said the ONS figures pointed to a healthy and sustainable recovery in retailing. Treasury minister Angela Knight said: "Taken

Retail sales

Volumes (% annual change)



Source: ONS

Economists pointed out that the sales data followed the stronger-than-expected manufacturing survey from the Confederation of British Industry — and formed an excellent backdrop for yesterday's Queen's Speech, which the Government used to reiterate its commitment to low inflation and sound public finances.

The ONS said sales of household goods had fallen by 0.5 per cent in September, reflecting the slowdown in the housing market recovery. But food sales continued to rise, up by 0.4 per cent in the month. And mail order sales began their autumn season early, with volume up by 0.8 per cent in September after a sluggish summer.

Most commentators said they expected sales volumes to bounce back during October, pointing to weekly figures from John Lewis showing the annual growth rate of sales up to 30 per cent this month, after easing back to 14 per cent during September.

"Does it really matter who's behind you? **Travel insurance**"

A very down to earth question.

The words 'American Express' are understood around the world. That's important if you're abroad and you find you need medical attention, cover for lost baggage or personal property, compensation for travel delay or funding for legal expenses. So if you need emergency assistance or even pre-travel advice, our representatives are on call 24 hours a day wherever on earth you are. We offer annual cover from just £59 and single trip policies that you need not be a Cardmember to take advantage of. You see, your travel insurance provider can make a world of difference.

To find out how we can help you do more with travel insurance, call:

0800 700737



Insurance Services

Policy terms and conditions are available upon request.

American Express Services Europe Limited, Reg. Office, Portland House, 1 Stag Place, London SW1E 5BZ, Reg. No. 1833139.

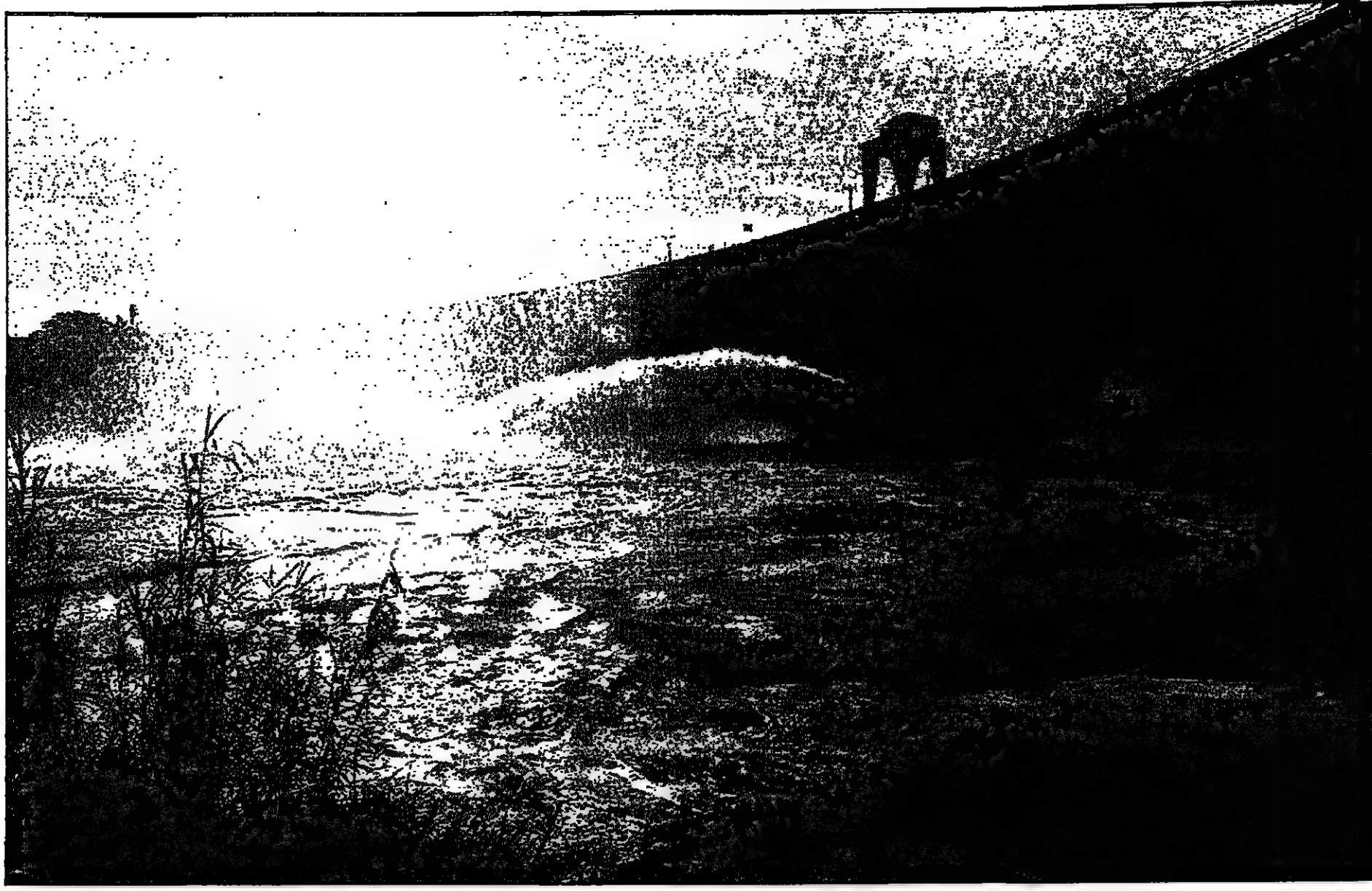
TIN1

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.9475	France 7.2625	Singapore 2.21
USA 1.65	Germany 2.3675	South Africa 7.10
Belgium 48.71	Greece 373.50	Spain 169.25
Canada 2.0575	Hong Kong 12.05	Sweden 10.58
Japan 0.7105	India 58.56	Switzerland 1.94
Denmark 9.10	Ireland 0.9850	Turkey 146.775
Finland 7.25	Israel 5.19	USA 1.5225

Compiled by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel).

Continent resolves to work its way out of crisis. RICHARD THOMAS reports



Uganda sees the Owen Falls project at Jinja as helping create the right environment for economic success

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN ST. JEROME

Africa faces up to tough choice

AFRICAN countries should follow the lead of the Asian "tiger" economies and industrialise their way out of poverty, a new alliance of governments and international agencies said yesterday.

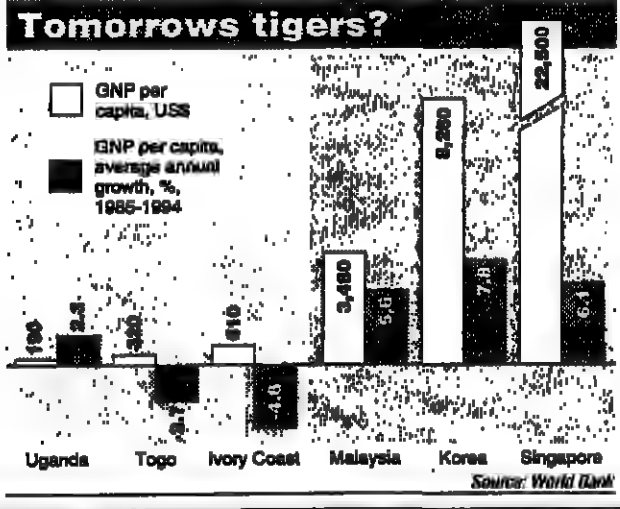
manently underdeveloped." Fifteen African heads of state and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation met to launch an "Alliance for Africa's industrialisation", hailing industrialisation as the cure for Africa's ills and a lifeline for

the continent's 230 million poor people. The African leaders stressed the need for a partnership between nations, and between the private sector and governments, to reduce the continent's dependence on aid and agriculture —

which account for 31 per cent of the economies of countries south of the Sahara, and 20 per cent in North African countries. Ivory Coast president Henri Konan Bedie criticised African governments for becoming reliant on aid, and challenged them to develop a distinctly African view of the future.

Other recent proposals include using a Royal Navy three-mast training schooner, a plan by Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson to team up with Govan Shipbuilders' sit-in leader Sammy Gilmore to devise a rescue package, and an offer from National Car Parks chief Sir Don Gosling to pay 25 million

war and ethnic tensions. This is creating an economic desert in Africa, which profits the rest of the world." Kandeck Yumkella, Unido's African representative, told the Guardian: "Africa is currently a footnote in the global economy. Attention needs to be focused on building strong government and institutions, strengthening manpower resources."



"In order to enable African nations to become newly-industrialising countries during the next 10-15 years," Mr Bedie said, "Commitments must be made to develop Africa's natural resources, which provide the continent with significant comparative advantages." He highlighted the need to build Africa's underdeveloped agriculture into a high-tech agri-industry, and to harness the skills of women.

'Africans should stop feeling sorry for themselves, and should not blame the external environment. It is not the continent's destiny to be permanently underdeveloped'

He cited Mauritius as a country which had shifted aid payments away from immediate relief and into areas which boosted long-term competitiveness, including a powerful bureau for standards and technology diffusion.

Get-two-free plan to replace the Britannia

Celia Weston Industrial Correspondent

A PRESTIGE £200 million all-British project to replace the Royal Yacht Britannia at no cost to the public purse has been submitted to the Government by a consortium of cruise and travel executives.

The Britannia, due to be phased out next year, would be replaced by two luxury vessels, with the Royal Family given first call on each of the 250-passenger ships. At other times the vessels could be used for Government-sponsored trade missions, and commercial luxury cruising.

The consortium's proposal is the latest in series of bids to save the Royal Family the embarrassment of not having a high quality vessel in which to sail, and the Government the embarrassment of having to justify raising the money for a Britannia-replacement from taxpayers.

Other recent proposals include using a Royal Navy three-mast training schooner, a plan by Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson to team up with Govan Shipbuilders' sit-in leader Sammy Gilmore to devise a rescue package, and an offer from National Car Parks chief Sir Don Gosling to pay 25 million

towards the construction of a modern-day replacement.

Peter Robbins, marketing director for the so-called Britannic Project, said yesterday: "Replacing the royal yacht with a ship for royal purposes only is unrealistic. This project would give exporters a perfect showcase for British excellence and give discerning opinion-formers an opportunity to experience Britain at its best."

He told specialist newspaper Lloyd's List the ships would be British crewed and help create "jobs and prestige for our merchant navy".

If the plans were to be approved, the project could provide the first significant cruise ship construction orders for British yards in more than 25 years.

Mr Robbins said the Britannic Project would be funded by a mix of bank and private investor money; any shareholder must be a British national and would not be allowed more than a 24 per cent stake.

Protests called as sick pay talks fail

Julia Glantz

GERMANY'S engineering and electronics industry is facing a new wave of protests after marathon talks to solve a dispute over sick pay cuts collapsed yesterday.

IG Metall, Germany's largest union, said action against the "uncompromising position" of the employers would start today. It claimed that firms are breaking national agreements that guarantee full sick pay.

Gesamtmittel, the engineering employers' association, stuck to a recommendation to its members to pay full wages until a new agreement is reached.

A new law allows German companies to reduce wages by 20 per cent during the first six weeks of illness. Employers argue that they need to cut wage costs to become more competitive. Germany's engineering industry has shed more than 140,000 jobs so far this year.

Employers are opposing any further increases in labour costs after hourly pay rates rose by more than 10 per cent in 1995-96.

Gesamtmittel believes cuts in sick pay would reduce costs by almost 1 per cent and stop misuse. IG Metall expects tens of thousands of workers to protest.

On October 1, about 150,000 workers took part in protests. Full sick pay has a symbolic value for workers because 40 years ago an earlier generation fought for it in a 114-day strike.

The package discussed by both sides also included holiday and Christmas benefits as well as next year's wage rise. "The union is asking for a rise of 4.5 to 5 per cent in the total wage bill, of which 2 per cent would be paid directly in cash and the rest in the form of measures to guarantee secure employment."

Murdoch to use Sky to raise £625m

Paul Murphy

RUPERT Murdoch's News Corporation is expected to confirm today that it is using part of its 40 per cent holding in satellite TV operator BSkyB to help raise \$1 billion (£625 million) for the rest of his media empire.

News Corporation is issuing a new class of preference shares which are convertible in BSkyB stock, allowing the Australian group to capitalise on the popularity of the satellite TV operator, shares in which have almost doubled this year.

Mr Murdoch is effectively using part of News Corp's holding in BSkyB, which is worth about £3¼ billion in total, as security for a loan.

However, this innovative financing deal, which promises News Corporation the chance of raising money at a substantial discount to conventional bank debt, aroused suspicions in the City yesterday and sparked a sharp fall in BSkyB's share price, which closed 43p lower at 635½p.

Earlier this week, shares in BSkyB hit a high of 696p, only to fall back on Tuesday in response to news of the merger between Cable & Wireless's Mercury division and three cable companies to form a new \$5 billion company offering packaged telecommunications, information and entertainment.

Brokers also cited yesterday's news that Ofcom, the telecommunications regulator, has banned a sales promotion mounted by British Telecom in partnership with British Telecom, offering discounts to some of BT's customers who also subscribe to BSkyB TV channels.

It is expected that the new preference shares, which are being sold to investors through a private placement in the US, will only be convertible into BSkyB stock after five years. Pricing details have yet to be set.

Less limelight for Boler

Law King

STEPHEN Boler, the colourful businessman who owns a 13 per cent stake in Manchester City football club, is expected to sell half of his estimated \$36 million stake in Limglight, the Mobern kitchens group, when it comes to market next month.

Mr Boler, who began his career selling tyres and car exhausts, set up Limglight 14 years ago. He is to remain a non-executive director, but is selling his stake because he wants to invest more of his wealth in other business interests.

These include the 150-square-mile game reserve on the edge of the Kalahari desert in southern Africa,

where Mr Boler has already invested a reported \$10 million. The disclosure came as Limglight whose other operations include Kitchens Direct, Portland windows, the Sharp's fitted bedrooms business and Dolphin showers — confirmed flotation plans, valuing the company at between \$175-210 million.

Launching the pathfinder prospectus yesterday, chief executive Stephen Cotter said Limglight was enjoying the pick-up in the economy, and the fact that consumers were spending more on home improvements.

Mr Cotter said that trading in the second half of 1996 was expected to be strong, continuing into 1997, with both Mobern and Kitchens Direct trading above expectations.

He added: "All of our businesses report good order books and are enjoying a healthy levels of sales."

Mr Cotter said that Limglight, which operates nationally from 555 showrooms in some 342 locations, was expected to make pre-tax profits of around \$18.8 million during the current trading year.

Apart from Mr Boler, who sold part of his stake in Manchester City to chairman Francis Lee when he bought control of the club in 1994, other shareholders are also reducing their stake in Limglight on the flotation.

ADT, the Bermuda-based group headed by Michael Ashcroft, is selling its complete shareholding. Schroder Ventures, which holds a 27 per cent stake, is expected to sell down to about 10 per cent.

Dan Atkinson

A GHOSTLY chuckle may have been heard yesterday floating across the African scrub as the Ministry of Defence confirmed what the British mercenary leader "Colonel" Callan knew all along: in the world of warfare, there are no no-go areas for the private sector.

Tanks and armoured vehicles, the ministry said, could be the next targets for "contracting out", and the RAF may fly into battle in Tornados owned by leasing companies.

Even the national Excalibur, the Trident II ballistic missile system, could be subject to "sale and lease-back" deals with private

firms, according to Cowie, a Sunderland-based outfit best-known for providing company cars and now a leader in MoD leasing. And, with the ironmongery handed over to the market economy, the next logical step has to be the service-maintenance contractors.

It was very different 30 years ago when Callan faced the firing squad in Angola. He and other dogs of war — "Mad" Mike Hoare and Colonel David Scirling — were one export Britain would happily have forewarned. But yesterday's gung-ho MoD announcement that "any private financing idea will be pursued if it is judged the best way forward" seemed post-hoc vindication of the Callan approach.

Cowie has already signed a deal to buy and lease back 1,400 items of material-handling equipment from the MoD and it hopes to do the same thing with tanks.

Under the private finance initiative the MoD has already signed millions of pounds worth of deals with external contractors. Cowie's corporate communications manager, Robert Blower, said any deal on tanks, aircraft or even nuclear submarines would mean the firm buying the equipment, leasing it to the services for a fixed period, undertaking maintenance and management and, eventually, selling it on. The Army would do nothing other than budget a monthly amount for the rental. Just like TV hire.

Advertisement for Iberia flights. It features two Iberia aircraft in flight. Text includes: '7:30am HEATHROW Iberia: First to Madrid', 'We've got more time for you', and '7:55pm MADRID Iberia: Last back to Heathrow'. The Iberia logo is prominently displayed at the bottom.

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page. It includes the text 'Saeed thrives on diet of big winners' and 'adlow National H'. The text is partially obscured and difficult to read.

No-free to replac Britannia

Racing

Saeed thrives on diet of big winners

Chris Newkins in Toronto

SAEED bin Suroor, Godolphin's trainer, tried to find a quiet corner in the track...

This former Dubai policeman, who came to the notice of Sheikh Mohammed...

Saeed believes Mark Of Esteem, who runs in the Mile on Saturday...



Team talk... Saeed bin Suroor chats to work-rider Kevin Harris after exercise on the Woodbine gallops at Toronto yesterday

him, he must have a good chance. I don't think Frankie rode one of his best races...

whether this will be Mark Of Esteem's last race, but Sheikh Mohammed has decided that none of the Godolphin horses will run on medication on Saturday.

est has recently been bought by the Rathbarry Stud for £3 million and will stand alongside Barabban, winner of the Breeders' Cup Mile in 1994...

docks in Newmarket this season but the Godolphin operation will expand. "We may build new boxes," he explained.

Saeed runs two of them, Asas and Medalya, in Saturday's Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster.

Nottingham runners and riders

Table of racing results for Nottingham, including race numbers, names, and times. Includes sections for 2.00, 3.00, 4.00, and 5.00.

Newbury with form for the televised races

Table of racing results for Newbury, including race numbers, names, and times. Includes sections for 2.10, 3.00, 4.00, 5.00, and 6.00.

Cochrane fall sparks delay row

Ron Cox

RAY COCHRANE was last night detained in hospital with neck injuries and concussion after taking a crashing fall in a three-horse pile-up at York...

The Jockey Club will look into a report by the local stewards concerning a delay in an ambulance attending the incident...

Roberts said: "Ray was talking to me when he fell and said his neck was injured. He got the worst of it."

Having walked back to the weighing room, Roberts immediately complained to the stewards concerning the delay in an ambulance reaching the scene.

been something really serious the delay would have been too long. It wasn't right. All the jockeys are unhappy about it."

Stewards' secretary Anthony Gillam said: "Michael Roberts complained but we already knew we had something to look into. As the stewards were coming down from the viewing box they were horrified to see both ambulances were still on their stations."

Fellow secretary Geoff Forster added: "When an incident like this happens it is up to the doctors to notify the ambulance where it is. It seems the doctors were so keen to get to the scene they didn't make the call."

Breaking down the timing of the incident, Gillam said: "We have taken the timings from the Racefile film which is not timed to the second. The race started at 3.03 and the ambulance arrived at 3.07."

"One minute does not sound like a long time but when you're on the floor gasping for breath it can seem a very long time indeed."

Ludlow National Hunt card

Table of racing results for Ludlow National Hunt, including race numbers and names.

Results

Table of racing results for various tracks, including sections for NEWCASTLE, YARNSOUTH, and SKELTON.

10-15-96 City West Ltd, 3-1 Yorkdale, 10-4 Cyren The Great, 12-1 Pottolton, 14-1 Castal Hill

10-15-96 City West Ltd, 3-1 Yorkdale, 10-4 Cyren The Great, 12-1 Pottolton, 14-1 Castal Hill

Soccer

Top clubs add three weeks to next season

Ian Ross

NEXT season will start two weeks earlier and have an extra week at the end. The changes are intended to smooth England's passage into the 1998 World Cup final...

calls and by international players. The decision was taken in principle at a meeting of Premier League chairmen on October 10 but was not due to be made public for another two months...

will be on July 25 and the league programme will open on August 2. The final matches in May 1998 will be shortly before the teams assemble in France for the World Cup...

only six weeks, making it the briefest in the history of the British game. To help England's coach Glenn Hoddle to maximise the potential of his squad...

ment. One is the extra number of countries now participating in the European competitions and the World Cup. It means larger groups and more games, both at international and club level.

of the clubs is that we can't have matches where there are a lot of star players missing, we have to think of our own supporters."

that Uefa will ask all European countries to consider arranging "double header" World Cup qualifying games, as Scotland did recently in Latvia and Estonia...

tion reached provisional agreement in Manchester. It follows a fresh offer by the League, which provoked the dispute when, after signing a £125 million contract with Sky...

Coca-Cola Cup, third round Stoke 1, Arsenal 1

Stoke's fire is doused by Wright

Paul Fitzpatrick

STOKE CITY'S defence had caved in in the 18th minute against Sheffield United last Saturday but showed far more resilience against Arsenal at the Victoria Ground last night.

The greater security at the back and a sharp piece of finishing in the first half by Mike Sheron threatened to send Arsenal the same way as Chelsea on the previous night at Bolton. But not for the first time Ian Wright came to their rescue.

He earned Arsenal a slightly fortuitous replay when he equalised in the 77th minute, making the most of a neat ball played into the box by Paul Merson. It was almost the first time in the night that Arsenal's followers in a crowd of 20,000 had much to shout about.

The game took a long time to break free of its midfield shackles, but when it did it was Arsenal who took something of a sucker punch. Lou Macari, the Stoke manager, had emphasised to his players the danger that Arsenal could pose from set pieces, but it was the London side who failed properly to clear a free-kick from Pickering and it cost them a goal after 25 minutes.

Almost inevitably it was Mike Sheron who scored. Stoke's leading scorer had not made the best of a couple of half-chances earlier. But now, when he chipped the ball into the penalty area, he showed his predatory skills at

their best when he nipped behind Adams to toe-poke the ball past Seaman from close range. Neither goalkeeper had been seriously tested up to that point, but Arsenal's reply was swift and almost successful.

Winterburn's long cross from the left ran invitingly into Merson's path on the right but Worthington, to his goalkeeper's relief, managed to deflect a thunderous drive over the crossbar.

Wright had threatened a number of moments of danger as the first half came to a close. He became something much worse for Stoke 13 minutes from time when the Arsenal man at last found an exploitable gap in Stoke's admirable defence, moving sharply on to Merson's pass and scoring cleverly from close range.

It was as well for Arsenal that Wright scored, for no one else seemed capable of doing so, certainly not Bergkamp, who was feeling his way tentatively back after injury and gave way to Hartson in the 72nd minute.

Hartson had been on the field for only two minutes when he received the night's first yellow card for a reckless tackle.

Two more soon followed as the names of Vieira and Winterburn also went into the referee's notebook for wild challenges.

Stoke City: Muggleton; Pickering (McMahon, 88min), Worthington, Sigurdsson, Dwyer, Wright, White, Wallace, Sheron, Kewell. Arsenal: Seaman; Dixon, Winterburn, Vieira, Boute, Adams, Platt, Wright, Merson, Seaman (Hartson, 72), Keown, Roberts & Surge (Toniarty).

Manchester United 2, Swindon Town 1

Scholes steals in to deny Swindon

Ian Ross

THE League Cup may be a poor fourth on Manchester United's list of priorities but, nonetheless, they find themselves in the tournament's last 16 this morning.

The team, stripped bare of its most attractive components, was ultimately too strong and too knowledgeable for First Division Swindon Town.

It was always a struggle and it was often dour, but after Sunday's debacle on the banks of the Tyne it will at least have lifted the spirits of those in need of reassurance.

For once the Manchester United team was awash with fresh-faced local youngsters, beneficiaries of the lethargy which invariably accompanies the early rounds of this competition.

uberance on his return from injury often threatened to manifest itself in an ugly tackle or two. Still, Swindon could hardly be described as a soft touch either technically or physically. In so much as they are robust and lacking in subtlety, they accurately reflect the philosophy of their manager Steve McClaren.

They were coping well until the 19th minute when United found sufficient enthusiasm to throw together a passing sequence that would have undone a defence far more accomplished than Swindon's.

Thornley and Scholes throve the ball smartly forward to Poborsky who drove unerringly beneath the diving goalkeeper Tala. The game then quietened down and hard as they tried, Swindon could not increase the tempo sufficiently to perturb United's makeshift defence. Walters' raking runs down the right flank held much promise but too often his final pass was delivered in haste.



Stepping up the pace... Liverpool's Steve McManaman gives two Charlton players a run for their money at The Valley

Charlton Athletic 1, Liverpool 1

Whyte knocks Reds out of their stride

Paul Weaver

CHARLTON, with a performance of spirited and purposeful football which belied their status, fully deserved a replay at Anfield in three weeks' time.

They hustled Liverpool out of their cultured stride, went ahead through David Whyte, and after Robbie Fowler equalised they had the better of the game.

The echoes of The Valley's celebrations were still in the warm evening air when Liverpool equalised four minutes later. Barnes provided the long ball for Berger, whose

pondering quickly to Leaburn's clever flick-on from Salmons' long clearance, lobbed him with assurance.

It has been a difficult season for Whyte, who has been unable to command his regular place. But he was recalled for Saturday's home game against Bolton Wanderers and responded with two headed goals in a 3-3 draw with the First Division leaders.

The echoes of The Valley's celebrations were still in the warm evening air when Liverpool equalised four minutes later. Barnes provided the long ball for Berger, whose

forward runs from deep positions were to trouble the London side throughout the opening 45 minutes. Berger used his strength to ride one tackle before crossing for Fowler to score with a simple tap-in.

Liverpool seemed to have learned little from their meeting with Charlton last season, when they won 2-1 at Anfield in the fifth round of the FA Cup. The Addicks deserved to be on level terms at half-time and might have regained the lead in the fading minutes of the first half. In the 40th minute Otto ended a sustained period of pressure by shooting over after Barnes had

given the ball away. It would have been an injustice if Fowler had scored from Berger's cross in the 44th minute.

A capacity crowd of 16,000 had produced club-record receipts of £153,000 and they were given plenty to cheer Liverpool's hesitant defence was immediately under pressure at the start of the second half and Babb had to clear rather uneasily from the lively Otto's centre.

Even with six in midfield, if the deep-lying Berger and McManaman are counted, Liverpool struggled to match a highly competitive Charlton

side who are one off the bottom of the First Division table. McManaman shot wastefully over when Liverpool pieced together their first coherent attacking move of the half in the 61st minute. Charlton responded immediately and Whyte drove a fierce shot straight at James. Liverpool went close to taking the lead in the 65th minute when McManaman's shot was only parried by Salmons.

Charlton: Aldred; Salmons; Brown, Rutter, Chappie, Barnes, O'Connell, Newton, Robinson, Ott, Leaburn, Whyte. Liverpool: James, Seale, Mathis, Babb, McArae, Thomas, Barnes, Blomqvist, Moberg, McManaman, Fowler, Roberts & Dunn (Hartson).

Golf Volvo Masters News and Reports 0891 567 967

Results section containing scores for English Coca-Cola Cup, Scottish Coca-Cola Cup, and various league matches.

Fixtures section listing upcoming matches for various football leagues.

Cricket section listing international and domestic matches.

Baseball section listing matches from the World Series and other leagues.

Ice Hockey section listing matches from the Stanley Cup and other leagues.

Snooker section listing matches from the World Snooker Championship.

Chess section listing matches from the World Chess Championship.

Becker quick to kill off Pusedski... Group 4 looks... Sweed smell of... Foot hits the rock

Becker quick to kill off Rusedski

David Irvine

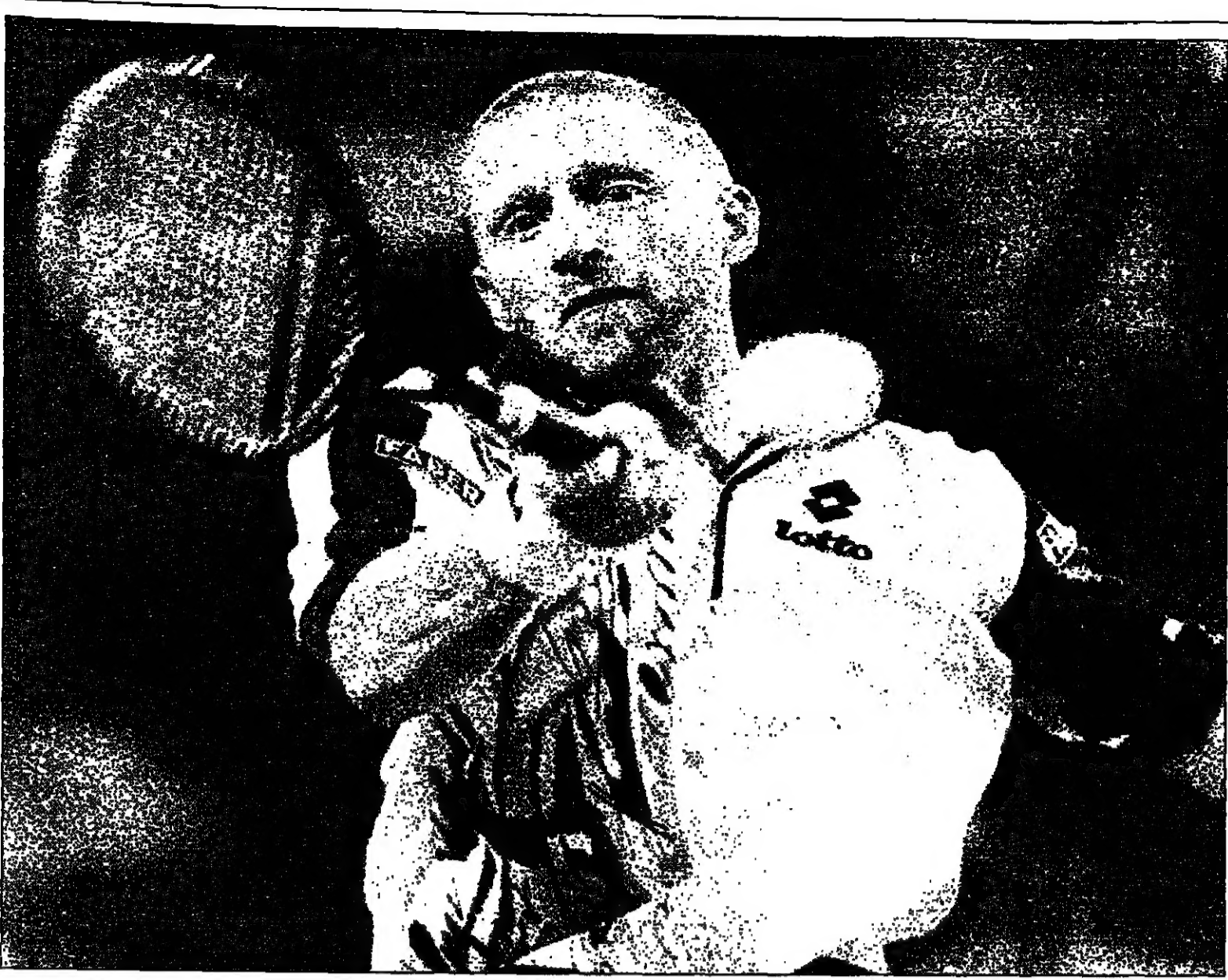
BORIS BECKER, who defeated Andre Agassi in Ostrava last week with a recurrence of a wrist injury sustained at Wimbledon...

Rusedski's fierce serve, timed at up to 130 mph, failed to intimidate the sixth-seeded German...

A match with few rallies was over in an hour - far quicker than the first round when they met last year at the Australian Open...

Rusedski, who took the Beijing title two weeks ago, won four points off Becker's serve in the second set, one on a double fault...

Stefan Edberg lost 7-6, 6-3 to the No. 5 seed Goran Ivanisevic, and the No. 3 seed Thomas Muster had to default with a leg injury when trailing 2-0 in the third set to Australian Mark Woodford...



Return with a vengeance... Becker showed no sign of his wrist injury as he needed only an hour to defeat Rusedski

PHOTOGRAPH: RALF STOCKHOF

Rugby League

Lindsay wields axe at home and abroad

Andy Wilson in Palmerston North

ADEMORALISING blow has been dealt to Great Britain's preparations for the second Test here tomorrow...

Neither the tour manager Phil Lowe, who stayed with the 12 after Monday's defeat by the Maoris...

Although it was always intended to keep 32 players with only two Tests remaining...

However, Cliff Brittle, the RFU executive chairman, admitted that the RFU, as the supreme governing body...

After Tuesday's breakdown of talks, Epruc has called for the appointment of an independent arbitrator...

The former captain Will Carling, who resigned from the post in March, said there were no circumstances in which he would decline to turn out for England...

The proposal to set up a company owned equally by the RFU and the top clubs has obvious appeal...

However, Cliff Brittle, the RFU executive chairman, admitted that the RFU, as the supreme governing body...

Although it was always intended to keep 32 players with only two Tests remaining...

However, Cliff Brittle, the RFU executive chairman, admitted that the RFU, as the supreme governing body...

However, Cliff Brittle, the RFU executive chairman, admitted that the RFU, as the supreme governing body...

Rugby Union

RFU tempts clubs to £18m deal

Robert Armstrong

ENGLAND'S leading clubs have been offered an £8 million bait by the Rugby Football Union in a gamble which goes over the heads of the clubs' negotiators...

The RFU president John Richardson further warned Epruc, the body representing those 24 clubs...

The former captain Will Carling, who resigned from the post in March, said there were no circumstances in which he would decline to turn out for England...

After Tuesday's breakdown of talks, Epruc has called for the appointment of an independent arbitrator...

The proposal to set up a company owned equally by the RFU and the top clubs has obvious appeal...

However, Cliff Brittle, the RFU executive chairman, admitted that the RFU, as the supreme governing body...

Carling goes back to the centre when the going gets Brive

WILL CARLING will revert to centre on Sunday for Harlequins' European Cup match with Brive...

Jonah Lomu will miss the final of New Zealand's provincial championship between his Counties-Manukau side and Auckland...

The Newcastle prop George Graham is the first former rugby league player to be selected for a Scotland representative team...

Louis Luyt is to be challenged for the post of Transvaal president by his deputy Brian van Rooyen...

Mushtaq admitted that he had Australia, West Indies or England been the opposition Raza would not have played...

Zimbabwe's only warm-up match before the first Test and last week made 99 in his maiden in six months to play cricket full-time...

Sport in brief

Leeds decide not to pull up their roots

LEEDS rugby league club look set to stay at Headingley and have called a press conference for next Tuesday when they say they will make a major announcement regarding the future of the club and the stadium...

Cricket

Pakistan field Hassan Raza, 14

PAKISTAN have all-year-old batsman in today's second Test here against Zimbabwe. Hassan Raza will become the youngest ever Test player in succession to the current Pakistan coach...

Mushtaq admitted that he had Australia, West Indies or England been the opposition Raza would not have played...

Zimbabwe's only warm-up match before the first Test and last week made 99 in his maiden in six months to play cricket full-time...

Mushtaq admitted that he had Australia, West Indies or England been the opposition Raza would not have played...

Yankees fine and dandy

JUST as the Yankees appeared to be fighting a lost cause in the civil war between North and South, the New York team sprang back to life with a 5-2 win at the Atlanta Braves...

Golf

Allenby set to be one-hit wonder

David Davies in Valderrama on a ludicrous scenario involving a 25,000-mile round-trip for the injured Australian



Allenby... broke stratum

At 8.50 this morning Robert Allenby, fractured sternum and all, will walk gingerly to the 1st tee and there have a ball teed up by a caddy...

This situation has arisen because six weeks ago, 25 miles down the road from here, the car Allenby was driving hit a traffic island in San Pedro's high street...

Allenby should have been found, and that he did not think hitting one shot was competing...

Then common sense has been in remarkably short supply. There has been far too much of the jobsworth, rule-are-mentality prevailing when it should not have been beyond those responsible to save golf from a few degrading moments...

Athletics

Crystal Palace in tug of war

Duncan Mackay

AROW over the ownership of Britain's flag-ship meeting is threatening the future of top-class athletics at Crystal Palace next year...

Conflict has been growing steadily between the BAF and SEAA. The SEAA representatives on the BAF council refuse to support the creation of the British Athletes' Association...

The British Athletic Federation will find another venue for the IAAF Grand Prix meeting on June 29, it warned the South of England Athletic Association...

In a separate row, the BAF executive chairman Professor Peter Radford has come under fierce attack from Glasgow officials after he accused the city of having a "crude backwoods mentality"...

"We have not as yet announced any venues for our fixtures next year," said Tony Ward, the BAF spokesman...

"When we returned in the morning there were banners standing over them in a menacing way," said Radford...

Brian Connolly, Glasgow's director of parks and recreation, retorted: "The state of the sport is in, Prof Radford is a fine one to talk..."

SEAA's biggest money-spinner. The event made its reputation under Andy Norman but has been slipping down the IAAF's league table...

SEAA wants Norman to resume putting together the elite field.

Mercury advertisement featuring a globe and text: "A CABLE & WIRELESS COMPANY. STILL CHEAPER FOR BUSINESS. FINAL SCORE. At kick-off, we were up to 48% cheaper than BT. And at half-time... It doesn't cost anything to talk. FreeCall 0500 800 125."

Group 4 looks secure

GROUP 4, the leader of the BT Global Challenge, is expected to cross the finishing line of the first leg at Rio de Janeiro some time tomorrow...

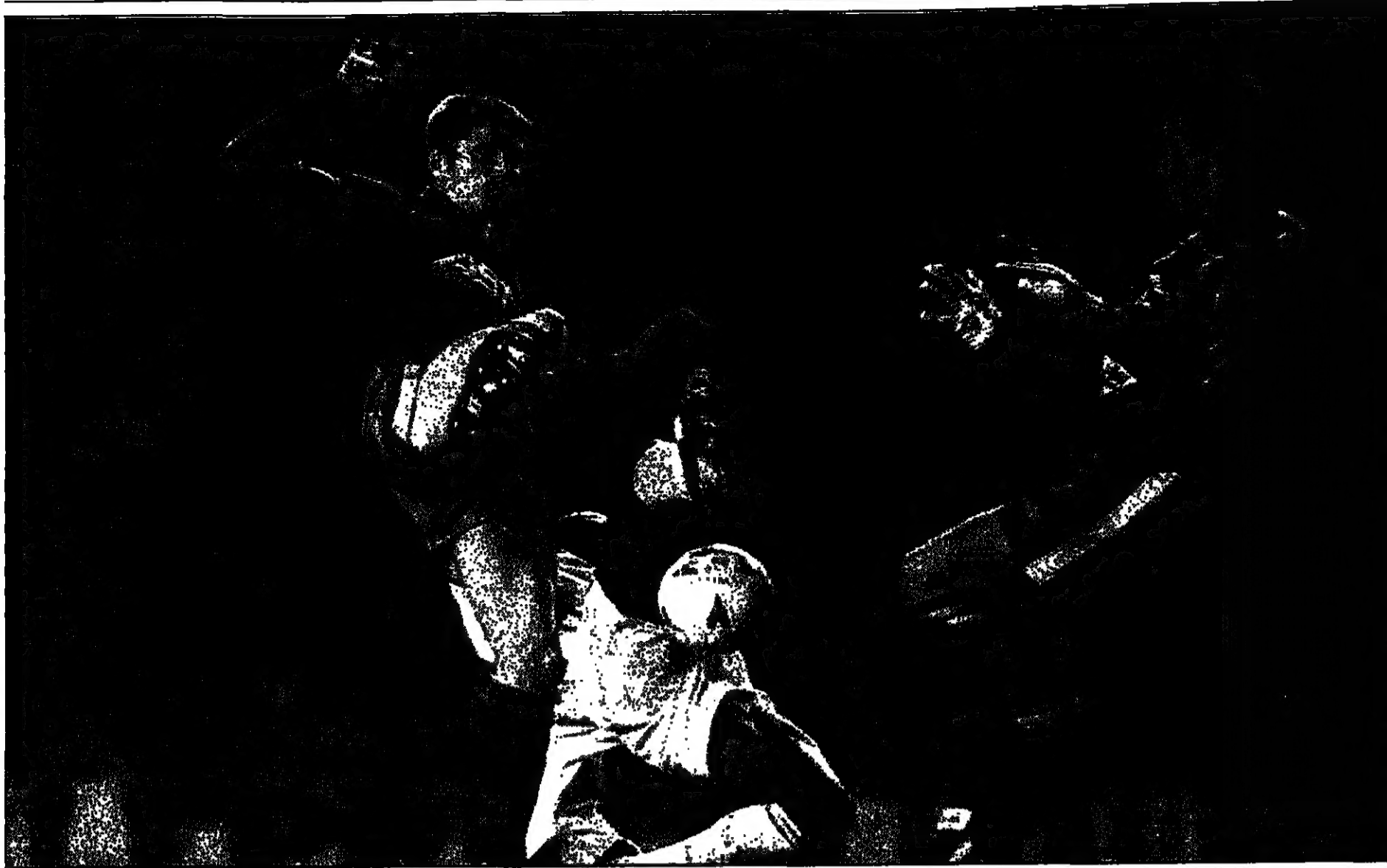
Scot hits the rocks

JAMES WATTANA reached his first ranking quarter-final in Britain for 18 months by beating Billy Snaddon 5-2 in the Grand Prix at Bournemouth yesterday...

Sheikh's man leaves his Mark, page 13
Twickenham dangles £18m bait, page 15

Soccer season on the move, page 14
14-year-old picked for Test, page 15

SportsGuardian



Block and tackle... the Leeds goalkeeper Martyn and Radebe, sliding in, combine to keep out Villa's Johnson at Elland Road last night. PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

Coca-Cola Cup, third round: Leeds United 1, Aston Villa 2

Villa get the trip and penalty deserts

Michael Walker

THINGS get no better for George Graham. Eight games in charge now and his record reads, won two, drawn one, lost five. Last night's defeat was Leeds's second in four days to Aston Villa and so there was revenge neither for

Saturday nor for last season's League Cup final between the teams. The wretchedness of Leeds' display against Villa in March was undoubtedly the first flag on the path that brought Graham to Elland Road. It was another six months before Howard Wilkinson departed but the memory of that Wembley perfor-

mance hung around Wilkinson like a bad smell. Not that the majority playing last night were involved in last season's final. Villa fielded six from that game, Leeds only four. Both sides had also made changes from Saturday's line-ups and one of Leeds', Cousins, almost justified that decision in the second minute.

His curler from 20 yards was dabbed away by Bosnich. It was not, however, as dangerous as the gaps Villa were developing. Curric, with a swift give-and-go with Johnson, created room for a shot, as did Johnson soon afterwards from Nelson's floated pass. Villa should have gone ahead in the 23rd minute when Jobson clearly dragged down Curric in the area as Curric rounded the Leeds man. As it followed a collision between Johnson and Martyn, Jobson was the last man at the time but Jeff Winter ignored Villa's pleas for a penalty. Curric took his right boot off in disgust.

Winter claimed at half-time that he did not see the challenge in question, which was an honest admission, yet also damning. Upset though they surely were, the visitors' momentum was not interrupted. Yorke shot direct from the restart and five minutes later wasted the best opportunity of the game to that point. Leaving Beesley with embarrassing ease, he strolled on to

bar. Leeds were finding space. Taylor's overhead clearance but a combination of a bobble and careless finishing killed the moment. They were now clearly superior, both individually and collectively. Johnson sped by Sharpe only for Martyn to save instinctively from Yorke, then Curric struck a post with Martyn well beaten. Then, in the 68th minute, all changed utterly. Wallace latched on to Radebe's long ball, swung in a low cross and Sharpe, arriving at speed, scored with impressive calm. Leeds, though, could not protect that lead for even 60 seconds as Curric cruised by Ford, Jobson fluffed his kick and Taylor squashed from three yards. In another seven minutes Villa had the lead they deserved. Predictably Yorke was the scorer and creator, coolly placing the penalty past Martyn after he had been tripped by Beesley.

Leeds: M. Beesley, Kelly, Beesley (Wright), Johnson, Radebe (Wetherall), 70, Sharpe, Ford, Palmer, Cousins, Wallace, Rush. Aston Villa: Bosnich, Nelson (Granger, 70), Tier, Ehigwe, Soriano, Wright, Taylor, Curric, Townsend, Johnson, Yorke. Referee: J. Winter (Stockton-on-Tees).

God is left on the bench for power game



Jim White

JACK CHARLTON'S new autobiography is packed with jolly disclosures, among them details of his frosty relations with his brother, his frosty relations with Eamon Dunphy, his frosty relations with much of the wildlife of Britain and Ireland. Also his pathological inability to see someone else with a packet of cigarettes without cadging one for himself. But perhaps the most entertaining revelation is the news of the big man's dressing-room behaviour while a player.

Apparently, such was his slavery to a succession of little routines — put the left sock on before the right, put the right boot on before the left, tie the left lace before the right and so on — that by the time he retired from playing for Leeds United, Charlton was taking up to an hour to kit himself up. So certain was he that some cataclysmic disaster would befall him and the team if he altered his methodical approach, he even refused the captaincy because that would have meant leading the lads on to the pitch and his habit was to be last out of the tunnel.

It appears odd that a man of Charlton's straightforward, call-a-spade-a-bloody-shovel demeanour should be prey to such credulity, it should be remembered that this was a prerequisite for members of the glorious Leeds side of the Seventies.

On the pitch they may have oozed cynicism, but off it there was a sacred assumption that a greater power was controlling the enterprise. And that didn't mean Don Revie. The manager, according to Charlton, was the worst of the bunch, a man riddled with superstition (his favourite, presumably, the belief that if you dropped the opposition captain 50 quid before kick-off the match was as good as yours). Despite blaming him for setting the tone, Charlton nevertheless dedicates his book to his old boss, claiming that no other manager could come close to Revie. Which probably had something to do with his habit of never having his lucky suit dry-cleaned. Leeds, however, were by no means alone. Footballers seem uniquely inclined to believe

in a power which can only be controlled by routine. Bus drivers, before they engage the ignition, don't run through a check-list of pre-routine obsession; surgeons don't insist on entering the operating theatre after their nurses; and judges don't worry that their judgment will be impaired if they put their wig on before their gown. Yet almost every footballer will admit to a little warm-up shtick intended to pacify the malevolent force of fate.

Intriguingly, the belief systems follow no set patterns. Though most restrict themselves merely to the way they get dressed, the goalkeeper Les Sealey was more concerned with how he travelled to the ground. Once he had an accident on the way to a match, played well and refused to have his car repaired for six months. And, he claims, when he finally had the bumper replaced and the dents knocked out, he played a stinker the next game.

Virtually every player and manager is prepared to use whatever external forces he can to influence a result. Except, it seems, Glenn Hoddle. Interviewed on BBC 1's The Big Question on Sunday morning, the England manager said that, though he is an active Christian, he would never call on God to intervene in something as trivial as a football match.

Thus, for example, if the 1996 World Cup semi-final reached a familiar denouement, Hoddle would not be willing to pray during the penalty shoot-out in the hope of obtaining the right results. Which makes for an intriguing thought: while everyone else on the team would be doing just that, the one true believer would rather not be bothering his God, for fear, perhaps, that He might turn out to be German.

THERE was no such sensitivity for Jack Charlton, incidentally. During the 1990 World Cup shoot-out between Ireland and Romania, as David O'Leary shaped to take the crucial kick, Charlton admits in his book that he had his back turned to the action.

It wasn't that he was too nervous to watch what happened. It was simply that he had stuck his head through the barrier separating the crowd from the players and was cadging a cigarette from an Italian spectator. Just as he got a light, O'Leary scored. Don Revie would have been proud of his old protégé: in times of football crisis the most important thing is not to alter the habit of a lifetime.

BECKSENTRICS

THE WEIRD AND WONDERFUL WORLD OF EUROPE'S FREE THINKERS

Deciding which hand luggage to take on the plane is often tricky - you never know exactly what you might need while cruising at altitude. A Polish man flying home on British Airways was shocked when his pet python sneaked out of his hand luggage for a slither around the plane. But not half as shocked as the American couple who found the python crawling across their seats.

PLAYING BY THEIR OWN RULES

This is a book which Tony Blair probably ought to get around to reading sooner rather than later. Not for the bits about Andrew Neil but for the bits about Rupert Murdoch. These are rather more interesting, and rather disturbing. Alan Rusbridger reads Andrew Neil

Books G2 page 7

Guardian Crossword No 20,792

Set by Quantum

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

Across

- Leverage duke obtained at some cost (9)
- Fish? Children after a number (5)
- Carried out before play starts or instrument is accepted? (5,10)
- Neat cut (4)
- The French in house muddle are likely to sleep rough (8)
- With which you can see it won't hold up much (5,4)
- Greek character's article cheers (5)
- Ben is being trained to be a playwright (6)
- Being exposed, affected by grilling? (9)
- English church rooms prepared for aimless wanderers (8)
- Part of creeper coming back is seen in fencing (4)
- Assumed Yate has front garden cultivated (5,3,7)
- Don't remember time off in form? (5)
- Where cups are placed by the team committee? (9)

Down

- Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 328 228. Calls cost 50p per minute Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm, and 45p per minute at all other times. Service supplied by ATS
- It's under depression (8)
- Grit not in compost decomposing (7)
- The fence's sunken. Exclamation of surprise? (2-2)
- Girl's present, we hear, moved to rapture (4)
- Arrangement in which money left is distributed in department (10)
- Sporting profiteer's a card having a drink round University (6,4)
- Strange native (English) showing ingenuity (7)
- Worker to endure an acrobatic feat (9)
- Brownish-grey fowl for

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,791

example reared in Wiltshire (10)
13 Fault-finding, serious NCO upset (10)
14 Short literary tome (new edition) provided recurring theme (9)
17 Place one in awkward position at the table? (7)
19 Peter's coming up with hard hat askew obtained from tar (7)
22 After losing top, repaired, brought to a close (5)
23 Artist nearly set up, old (4)
24 City doctor and writer (4)
Solution tomorrow

Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0800 328 228. Calls cost 50p per minute Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm, and 45p per minute at all other times. Service supplied by ATS

Top tax
'Ghostbuster' wa
holidays and a pe
Ben Atkinson
Inside

09/10/96